



CINEMA BOOM
100 YEARS ON

BRIDGET JONES'S
CHRISTMAS HELL



THE GREATS WHO PASSED IN '95

IN THE MAGAZINE TOMORROW

Ice rescue turns into tragedy

Three feared dead after attempt to save girl, 11

LOUISE JURY

An off-duty firefighter was last night praised for his bravery after he plunged into an icy lake to try to save a drowning girl and a man who attempted to rescue her.

All three were recovered from a lake at Kinsley, West Yorkshire, by police frogmen but despite intensive treatment in hospital were considered unlikely to regain consciousness.

Medical teams were last night attempting to warm the bodies whose temperatures were so low as to be unrecordable when they arrived at Pontefract General Infirmary after nearly two hours in the freezing water.

Mike Playforth, the accident and emergency consultant, said all initial resuscitation attempts had produced no sign of a heartbeat or pulse. "But in a situation like this, you cannot say that somebody has died until the core body temperature has been restored to normal."

After the accident, Divisional Fire Officer Colin Gavaghan warned people to avoid frozen lakes and rivers and paid tribute to the fireman.

"A fireman has risked his life to try and save two others. It was a tremendous attempt that the officer made. (But) all of this could have been prevented," he said.

The tragedy unfolded at the Hemsworth Water Park, in Kinsley, when the 11-year-old girl chased a dog on to the frozen lake and fell in.

A passer-by, 34, began the rescue attempt after spotting the girl in difficulty but soon became water-logged and sank.

The fireman, 48, from the South Yorkshire Fire Service, tried to rescue him by spreading a tarpaulin across the inch-thick ice to bear his weight. This standard rescue procedure failed and the fireman fell into the water.

Emergency services arrived in minutes but were forced to abandon their efforts in the bitter cold waters. A specialist underwater

search team was called in. Divers found the casualties about two hours after the accident which occurred at 12.15pm. Six fire officers involved in the original search needed hospital treatment for hypothermia.

Chief Inspector Michael Devlin said the girl went to rescue a dog which was later found dead.

At Pontefract General Infirmary, Mr Playforth said some people could survive for long periods in water but after one and three-quarter hours it would be "very unusual".

The casualties had been wrapped in blankets and were being warmed by cardiac massage and warm fluids during ventilation, he said. They would continue the fight until their body temperatures reached at least 32C. Three hours after being taken from the water the girl's temperature was 20C and the temperatures of the men were about 30C.

When someone plunges into cold water, the body goes into a form of suspended animation. There is a rapid decrease in the core body temperature, cell activity slows and the amount of oxygen the individual requires is correspondingly low.

It is possible to survive on a small amount of oxygen for a long period but a brain deprived of oxygen often suffers permanent damage.

As the cold continued to cause chaos across wide stretches of Scotland and northern England, a homeless man was feared to have also fallen victim to the bitter weather. John Murphy, 54, was found dead in a passage in Bathgate, Lothian, in temperatures which fell as low as -13C. A police spokesman said there were no suspicious circumstances but a post-mortem examination would be carried out.

As the cold swept southwards, the Benefits Agency, responsible for cold weather payments for claimants, announced Leeds, Manchester and Tyneside were among the



Rescue operations: Frogmen retrieving a body from the lake at Hemsworth Water Park. It was thought unlikely that any of the three who fell through the ice will survive. Photograph: Ross Parry

latest areas where the payouts had been triggered. The £8.50 a week benefit is payable when temperatures fall, or are predicted to fall, to zero or lower for a week.

However not all those to have suffered in the last week will get the help. Claimants in storm-struck Stornoway on Lewis in the Western Isles were among those not getting extra money although most of Scotland had been cold enough to be eligible, a spokesman said. Glasgow airport recorded -18.9C yesterday, beating its previous all-time record low of -18.7C set on Tuesday.

Shetland islanders remained the most badly affected by the storm and further strong winds were expected to hit last night.

Canon Lewis Smith, the convenor of the Shetland Islands council, said it was not taking up Government offers of military support yet but might as the situation was reviewed.

About 55 Scottish Hydro Electric engineers were expected to have restored electricity to the final 55 homes in Shetland by late last night. A company spokesman said that would leave only 48 homes in the Hushinish peninsula of the Western Isles without power.

Forecasters say the worst is still to come



Snow to reach parts of central southern England and South Wales by tonight

The coldest night in Britain for a decade was recorded yesterday as forecasters warned that the Arctic weather conditions that have brought chaos to Scotland and northern England were set to spread to the South, writes Louise Jury.

The mercury at an unmanned weather station in the north Highlands hamlet of Allnatharra plummeted early yesterday to minus 23.6C, the London Weather Centre said. It was thought to be the coldest temperature since 1986.

As severe conditions prompted the Government to offer the use of military support to help storm-hattered Shetland cope with the worst blizzards in memory, meteorologists predicted no let-up until the new year.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said there was a 30 per cent chance of snow falling in the South in the next few days, rising to 50 per cent in central England. Many parts of England and Wales have been hit already by freezing fog and sub-zero temperatures with

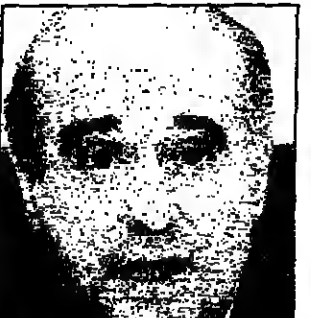
worse to come. "Heavy snow and strong east to south-easterly winds will move through central England and Wales over Friday and Saturday. Temperatures will struggle to get above freezing today and tomorrow, and North Wales, the East Midlands and hilly, open areas may experience heavy snow drifts on Saturday," the spokesman said. Warmer weather is expected to move in from the South-west, nudging temperatures above freezing by New Year's Day. Forecast, Section 2, page 33

Tory high command puts party on election alert

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Two senior Cabinet ministers yesterday reinforced an instruction to the Tory party to go on "election alert" with an implicit admission that John Major could yet be forced to the polls in 1996 before his government had run its full term.

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, bluntly warned the party that there would be "no tolerance for internal argument and selfish grandstanding". His exhortation in a New Year message to activists to "think votes" and "realise that victory must be our only concern" was echoed in an even more unabashed declaration by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, that the



Mawhinney: 'Think votes'

Tories would "increasingly become a fighting machine as opposed to a government administering the country".

Both ministers made it clear they expected the Government to run its full course, but insisted the party would be ready when-

ever the election was called. Dr Mawhinney brushed aside suggestions of a summer Budget and added: "This Parliament has 16 or 17 months to run, so I work on the basis that we will go through that period of time. But we will be ready to go whenever the Prime Minister calls."

Tory optimism that the Government will be allowed to run its full course was reinforced by indications that the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble - on whose support it could depend if it loses its majority - believes it is capable of surviving until 1997. Although Mr Trimble has made it clear that ministers can no longer rely on his party's support in a confidence motion, he has told colleagues he believes that the Government is unlikely to lose its ma-

jority until late in 1996 and could then probably soldier on for a few months after that.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, declared: "The Tories have given up governing the country in the interests of the people. From now on they will throw everything into electioneering in the interests of the Tory party."

But Labour's leadership last night faced an embarrassing broadside yesterday from its own ranks. Austin Mitchell, the fiercely Euro-sceptic MP for Grimsby, claimed that Labour risked "disastrous disappointment" by swapping a "Tory Tweedledum" by a Labour Tweedledum in Gordon Brown, and called for devaluation and big increase in public spending. Are the parties ready? page 2

New 'Oklahoma' bombing foiled

Reno (AP) - Two men have been arrested for allegedly planting a huge bomb at the office of the Internal Revenue Service, the United States tax collection agency, federal agents said yesterday.

The incident will revive fears that the US faces a wave of attacks like that carried out by a right-wing extremist which destroyed a federal building in Oklahoma City last April, killing 169 people in the worst act of domestic terrorism in America's history. Ellis Edward Hurst, 32, and Joseph Martin Baile, 40, were to face initial appearances yesterday before a federal magistrate in Reno, Nevada.

The bomb, a 30-gallon plastic drum, was found on 18 December in a parking lot in Reno by a government employee arriving for work. It was packed

with ammonium nitrate and fuel, the same type of ingredients used in the Oklahoma bombing. The fuse to the bomb had been lit, but it went out and the bomb did not detonate.

If it had gone off, the blast would have caused serious damage to the building and cars in the parking lot and could have killed anyone in the vicinity. Bob Stewart, a federal agent, said. Bomb experts dismantled the device before taking samples of its contents for analysis.

The IRS is a frequent target of rhetorical attacks from America's Christian fundamentalist far-right groups. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, who were arrested for the Oklahoma attack, had been linked to such groups in the past, but no firm link with any organisation was proved.

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Lotteryisms win instant acceptance

DECCA AITKENHEAD

There will be little hope of forgetting it all for an instant when the next English dictionary editions are published.

"Lotteryisms" - new words and meanings derived from the National Lottery, such as "scratch card", "rollover", "Ofot" and "instant", will all appear in the new volumes, ensuring the Lottery's impact on our national consciousness.

A scratch card, as defined by the new Chambers English

Dictionary, due out in August, will be: "A form of lottery card with a thin opaque film, which is scratched to reveal the allocated numbers printed beneath." Collins and the Oxford English Dictionary will carry similar additions.

If new dictionary entries are the words which speak for their times, then Lotteryisms suitably communicate the past year in Britain. Explaining the decision to include "scratch card", the Chambers editor Martin McLor said: "These days dic-

tionaries follow the lead of the general public. This is a word that is in common usage and it seems that it is here to stay. We try to reflect the true nature of language without being too politically correct about it."

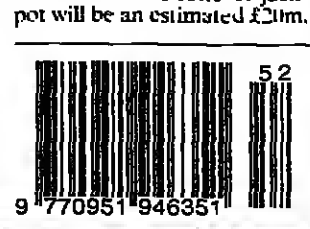
As well he might, having added "politically correct" to the previous Chambers dictionary update last year. Other entries in 1994 included "date rape", "needle banks", "car jacking" and "ethnic cleansing". "Yuppie" and "bank" were

quintessential Eighties entries. Now 1995 will be recorded as the year of the rollover.

"It's quite right that formal institutions should recognise something that 30 million people play every week. The Lottery has become even more talked about than the weather - and in this country, that's saying something," said a Camelot spokeswoman. "We've got snow all over Britain - but what people are talking about is next week's rollover."

For such a seemingly frivo-

lous subject, lotteryisms are grimly literal. The Lottery is proving a serious affair - £5bn has been spent on tickets, since its launch in November 1994, and next week's rollover jackpot will be an estimated £20m.



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ACTIONAID

news

Killing raises fears for peace process

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Concern that the Irish peace process may be in danger of unravelling has been heightened by the fourth violent death in three weeks in Belfast, all of which appear to be the work of the IRA.

The latest victim was Martin McCrory, a 30-year-old west Belfast man, who died after being hit in the chest by a shotgun blast fired through the window of his home in the republican Turf Lodge district on Wednesday night.

His three-year-old son was

slightly hurt in the hand in the attack, though Mr McCrory's partner and another son were uninjured. The killing was the fourth in a series of "punishment" killings which stretch back to last April, but the fact that four have taken place this month represents a significant escalation.

Although the Government does not appear to regard the killings as a breach of the ceasefire called by the IRA, security sources say there is little or no doubt that the attacks have been carried out by the IRA or with its blessing.

Three of the dead are regarded as leading drug-dealers.

Mr McCrory is reported to have been involved only in minor-league criminal activity. He was known locally as a burglar and joyrider, while police sources said that any involvement in drugs was at most dabbling on a small scale.

The first two killings in the sequence came in April and September, involving high drug figures, and the general impression at that point was that such attacks amounted to a lethal form of "community policing", aimed at preventing a flood of drugs coming into Northern Ireland.

But this month's increased

rate of killings suggests that a new phase of IRA activity may have opened.

It is hardly a coincidence that the international body on arms decommissioning, headed by the former US Senator George Mitchell, began work earlier this month and is due to report by the middle of January.

This report will represent a crucial point in the peace process and seen against this background the killings convey the message that the IRA not only intends to keep its weapons but also intends to use them against what it defines as "anti-social elements".

From the IRA's perspective, such killings are useful in showing the organisation's muscle and in demonstrating that in the battle against drugs it can deploy methods that the RUC cannot.

At the same time, however, the escalation in killings would almost certainly not have happened if the British government was closer to meeting the republican demand for calling early all-party talks.

Disillusion with the peace process has grown steadily in recent months in republican circles, where the view is now almost universal that the British

government is not serious about allowing Sinn Féin fully into the political processes and of aiming for an all-inclusive settlement.

The killings appear to be a sign of this republican frustration, but they also strengthen the arguments of those who believe the republicans were themselves never serious about turning away from violence.

Although attacks on soldiers and police have stopped, the six shootings will be taken as evidence that the IRA always intended to use force, or the threat of it, to achieve its ends.

Leading article, page 14



Martin McCrory with his son when he was a baby

IN BRIEF

Rhys has setback on fifth birthday

Rhys Daniels, who suffers from Batten's disease and made medical history 16 months ago when he received a bone-marrow transplant from an unrelated donor, had a setback on his fifth birthday yesterday.

The illness, which causes dementia and blindness, usually proves fatal by the age of seven. Rhys's father, Barry, 37, said his son's condition was deteriorating and he was having trouble walking and talking. Rhys, whose sister Chari, seven, is suffering the later stages of the illness, celebrated his birthday at his home in Epping, Essex.

'Express' price rise

Further relaxation of the British newspaper price war is expected this weekend, when the Express raises its Saturday price from 35p to 40p and adds 5p to the price of the Sunday Express taking it to 75p. The move follows a similar hike at the Daily Mail, which pushed up its Saturday price to 40p last weekend. The Guardian last week added 10p to its Saturday edition, raising it to 60p. Publishers say the cost of newsprint is behind the rises, but media analysts add that a decision by Rupert Murdoch, who started the war in 1993, to raise the price of the Times earlier this year was a signal that hostilities were ending.

Cherkassky dies

Ukrainian-born pianist Shura Cherkassky has died in London at 84. Born in Odessa in 1911, Cherkassky, who fled with his family to the United States in 1922 during revolutionary violence, became established as an interpreter of great romantic pieces, such as those by Chopin, Liszt and Schumann.

Birds in oil slick

Densities of seabirds contaminated with oil have been washed up on the North Humberside coast. The RSPB says about 70 guillemots have been found over 10 miles between Withernsea and Spurn Head. Experts and volunteers were collecting the birds to clean off the oil, which is believed to have been discharged by a ship.

Meningitis kills baby

A baby has become the fifth person to die of meningitis in the north-east this month. The boy, of Anfield Plain, Durham, died on Wednesday. A woman of Crook, Durham, was also in hospital receiving treatment for the illness.

Thieves' remorse

Thieves who stole two rare ukuleles later made sure the owner got them back. David Edleston, a member of the George Formby Society, appealed for help from the public when the ukuleles, worth £1,000 each, were stolen from his home in Farsley, Leeds. Hours later he had an anonymous phoned call saying they were in a nearby rubbish skip.

1996 will be late

Scots setting out to "first foot" their neighbours as the bells ring in the New Year will have to pause for exactly a second this year. Because the Earth is spinning more slowly than it should, the year is taking longer to go by and scientists say a "leap second" must be added before 1996. The Greenwich Time Signal at midnight on Sunday will contain six extra short pips before the long pip marking the hour. The leap second will be inserted at the same instant world-wide.

Father's fears for missing teenager

IAN MACKINNON

A distraught father made a tearful plea for the safe return of his teenage daughter yesterday after she went missing following a Christmas Eve disco.

Presents for Louise Smith, 18, and her family have lain unopened around the Christmas tree as they have waited anxiously for news of her.

More than 40 detectives and uniformed officers have now joined the hunt searching for clues to her disappearance. She was last seen outside the disco at Yate, near Bristol. They are investigating a possible sighting of Miss Smith soon after leaving Spirals night-club. She was seen being driven by a female friend in her Ford Escort, but neither the car nor the driver have been traced so far.

The latest appeal follows a similar one earlier this week by the father of the missing French teenager Celine Figard, which prompted 400 calls from the public in a separate inquiry.

Robert Smith, 49, made his request for information about Louise yesterday during a brief appearance at a news confer-

ence at Avon and Somerset police headquarters. Mr Smith said his wife Gillian, 47, son Richard, 20, and Louise had planned to spend Christmas Day with relatives in Portishead. "Louise has never left home before, which makes it all the more worrying," he said. "There was no reason why she should leave."

Miss Smith had visited a pub shortly before going to the disco with friends where she spent most of the evening dancing and chatting. She left when the disco ended about 2am, going to a hamburger bar with friends. For some reason she declined to go with them for a taxi. Detective Inspector Chris Farrell, who is leading the inquiry, said: "Louise was devoted to her family. Her disappearance is totally out of character. We are keeping open minds about what may have happened. But the longer she is away the more worrying it becomes."

Concern also grows daily for the safety of Miss Figard, 19, who has not been seen since she accepted a lift from a lorry driver at Chieveley service area, near Newbury, in Berkshire, on Tuesday last week.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS GIRL?
LOUISE SMITH.
LAST SEEN LEAVING SPIRALS
ON XMAS EVE AT 2.00 A.M.
IF YOU HAVE PLEASE CALL POLICE.

Missing person: A poster (above) seeking news of Louise Smith (right) appears in the window of Spirals night-club, where she attended a Christmas Eve disco

Heseltine hopeful of homes boom

CLIFFORD GERMAN

The Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine joined the argument over the state of the housing market yesterday, seizing on new figures from the Nationwide Building Society predicting that house prices are expected to rise by 3 per cent in 1996.

In contrast to yesterday's assertion by the Labour Party that the market is still suffering from stagnation, repossessions and negative equity, Mr Heseltine said: "The New Year will start with an encouraging boost to the housing market. Both the Halifax and the Nationwide reported house price increases in November. Building society net new lending in November was at its highest since mid-year."

"Unemployment has been falling for 27 months, thus increasing a feeling of job security and a willingness to invest. House prices are at historically low levels in relation to incomes."

"There could well be a pick-up in demand by first-time buyers, waiting to enter the market before prices begin to move up," Mr Heseltine concluded.

The survey by the Nationwide suggests that the number of homes changing hands next year could increase by 10 per cent, after falling by a similar amount in 1995, and could lead to a rise of 3 per cent in the average price of houses, after a fall of 2.5 per cent in 1995.

Nationwide's forecasts are very much in line with the leading building society, the Halifax which on Tuesday forecast a 10 per cent rise in activity and a 2 per cent average increase in prices next year, rising to 5 per cent in 1997. The Halifax's forecasts prompted Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Min-

ister, to contradict any suggestions that the housing market is set to recover.

Industry spokesmen, however, pointed out that although the Nationwide survey shows that house prices rose 1.5 per cent in November, it also shows they fell 1.2 per cent in December, reducing the average price of a house in the UK to £50,798, down from £52,092 a year ago.

Nationwide's actual forecast is also couched in low key terms. It blamed the weakness of the housing market in 1995 on low confidence and weak growth in personal incomes. Brian Davis, the society's chief executive commented: "Although still tentative there have been some signs in recent months that the market has at least stabilised."

"This is in accord with our own reading of recent mortgage lending data, which suggests the decline in market activity has been halted. Stronger growth in personal incomes and a very favourable interest rate environment should provide the conditions necessary to support an improvement."



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Golden hellos lure graduates to City

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Revelations that City banks are paying graduate recruits up to £22,000 a year plus a "golden hello" were welcomed by employers yesterday as a sign of economic confidence.

Some institutions are offering new employees bonuses of up to £2,000, while others are giving salary advances to help them pay off student loans. But Oxbridge's grip on the City is loosening.

The average graduate starting salary is between £14,500 and £15,000, but those going into the City can expect to earn much more. Kate Orchi-Gann, chairman of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, said:

"She said the association's most recent survey of graduates' earnings showed a small number earning more than the average. 'There is a little tail of people earning between £19,000 and £22,000 and they tend to be

in merchant banks, though not necessarily in the large City firms. It shows some confidence, though it has pretty well been the case for some time."

The investment bank Nomura took eight graduates last year on salaries of between £20,000 and £22,000. Of about 1,300 applicants, only those who spoke a second language and expected to gain at least an Upper Second degree were considered.

Nomura does not offer bonuses or "golden hellos" to graduates but it does give them salary advances to help them find a flat and get settled in London. It used to recruit mainly from Oxford and Cambridge, but now takes staff from universities such as Birmingham, Leeds and Durham. David McIntosh, the bank's human resources manager, said applicants were now considered purely on merit.

"Markets are cyclical and a lot of companies have seen an upturn," he added.

Tories swear by familiar values as poll alert sounds

For the Conservatives it will be the old-fashioned "bodies" delivering leaflets and knocking on doors. However for Labour's general election machine, reorganisation under Tony Blair means that new American-style "schools of efficiency" will try to win power for the first time in more than 20 years.

Brian Mawhinney's "election alert" address yesterday gave the strongest hint yet that the Government is not entirely confident of seeing out 1996. For Pat Smith, organising head of the joint Conservative office in Brighton, the call to arms was not too alarming. "With local elections last and this year, we're on permanent stand-by. We're geared up."

Mrs Smith, responsible for the two marginal seats of Brighton Pavilion and Brighton Kemptown, said "bodies" would again be the key feature of the Tories' organising strat-

egy. Bodies to man committee rooms, polling stations, carry out canvassing, stuff envelopes, knock on doors. "People don't back you if you don't knock on their door."

With Sir Derek Spencer defecating a slim majority of 3,675 in Brighton Pavilion and boundary changes favouring Labour, Mrs Smith should be pessimistic. But she is not. "They wrote us off last time, they'll do the same this time. But we are convinced we can win."

Labour organisers in Norwich are resorting to tactics field generals would be proud of. North's South's Conservative MP, Patrick Thompson, is standing down at the next election and Labour has chosen Dr Ian Gibson to fight the seat. Election

alert or not, Labour appears to have now moved up a gear.

The assistant agent, Neville de Melo, said: "We are now operating under our 'key seat programme'. There is a key seat school and conference being held in March, and key seat leaflets have been sent out."

A meeting in Norwich will be held next month to allocate "key jobs" for the party election machine. Monthly newsletters are sent out and Dr Gibson has written a letter that will be delivered to all constituents in January.

The Liberal Democrat "target seats" approach means that Southwark and Bermondsey MP Simon Hughes, can expect helpers to flood into the capital from other constituencies with little hope of success. Mr Hughes's head of office, Graham Salt, said: "Simon has a large personal following. So a large mail shot organised quickly is crucial."

EU veteran is Major's man in Paris

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Michael Jay, the Foreign Office's senior mandarin on European affairs, is to become ambassador in Paris, in a Whitehall-wide shake-up which has left the Government with an almost entirely new team of top European Union experts for the two critical years ahead.

Mr Jay, an urbane 49-year old Wykehamist who is a veteran of the Maastricht summit and has been occupied full time on EU affairs since John Major came

to power in 1990, is to replace Sir Christopher Mallaby in what is now regarded as one of the most pivotal diplomatic posts.

The expertise of Mr Jay is thought by ministers to be especially valuable in British attempts to forge an alliance with the centre-right French government of Jacques Chirac in checking the German driven momentum to full-scale European integration.

He is to be replaced by Paul Lever, another Whitehall high flyer, whose work at the Cabinet Office includes servicing the

powerful Overseas and Defence Policy committee of the Cabinet. Mr Lever, 50, also has wide EU experience.

The changes - which have yet to be announced - come as the Government gears up for the 1996 inter-governmental conference on the future of the EU which is expected to begin with a special summit in Turin in the spring. The departure of Rod Lyle, the Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Secretary, has also left another key vacancy - which will be filled by John Holmes, currently the Foreign Office

official dealing with the EU's external affairs brief.

The change round completes a process that began early in the year with the replacement of Sir John Kerr, another veteran EU negotiator, by Steven Wall, formerly Mr Major's foreign affairs private secretary, as British ambassador to the EU in Brussels. Sir John was promoted to the embassy in Washington.

Mr Lever, whose appointment is one of a series approved by David Davis, the Foreign Office minister with direct responsibility for EU affairs, was

also involved in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts which helped secure the recent release of Staff Sergeant Tim Cowley, the British hostage held for 119 days by Colombian guerrillas.

Ministers describe the new team as "robust" and with an ability to speak their minds both to EU counterparts and, when necessary, to ministers themselves.

According to one minister, Mr Lever is "unflappable but also not a kiss-up kick-down sort of official."

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Howard was warned about Holloway chaos

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was personally warned about the deteriorating conditions in Holloway women's jail last March – nine months before prison inspectors walked out in disgust.

He was sent a letter from the jail's Board of Visitors alerting him to the fact that the system

was breaking down and the jail faced the threat of disturbances. Enclosed were copies of a catalogue of complaints the board had already sent to Derek Lewis, the then director-general of the Prison Service, and Michael Forsyth, the then prisons minister.

But conditions continued to slide into chaos and squalor until earlier this month, when the new Chief Inspector of Prisons,

General Sir David Ramsbottom, walked out of the north London jail demanding emergency action.

Sir David was said to have been shocked by "overzealous security" at the jail which included chaining women in hospital visits, the lack of any visible care for the large numbers of vulnerable women among the 500-plus population and disgusted by the

infestation of rats and cockroaches attracted by parcels of faeces and food thrown from windows and left to rot.

But many of these issues had been addressed by the board, when they alerted ministers to the jail's problems in March. Their catalogue of concerns included overcrowding, poor management, low staffing levels and a concentration on security issues at a cost of

worsening conditions for the women inmates. It is understood the board highlighted the fact that some remand prisoners had been being locked in their cells for all but two out of 48 hours over a weekend. It was concerned that overworked staff had insufficient time to deal with prisoners' problems, with drug abuse or with bullying and that dedicated staff were being struck down by

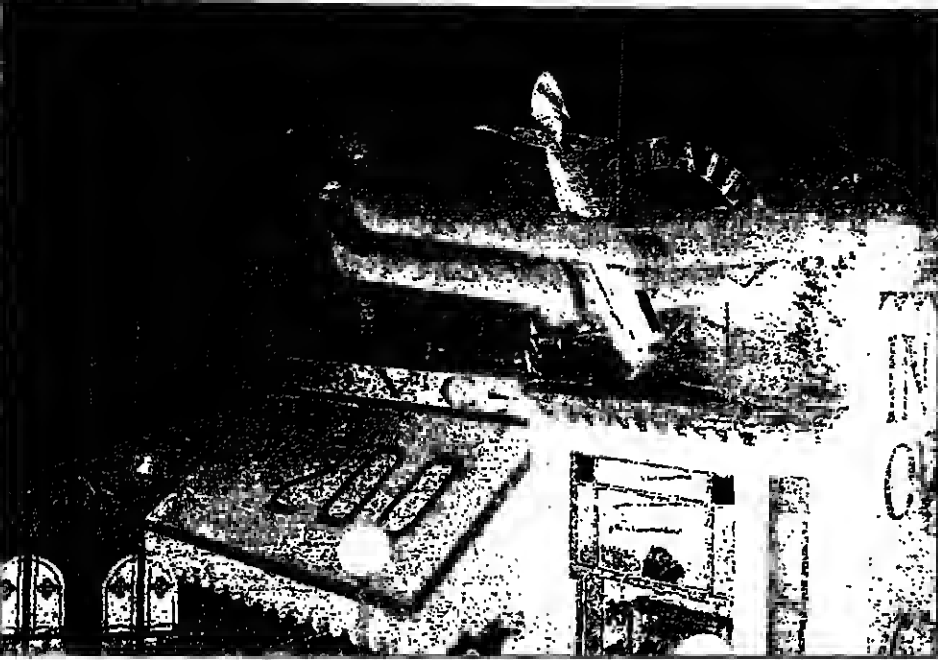
stress and long hours. In particular it was concerned that the regime did not allow for the special needs of the Holloway's population – offenders as young as 15 and 16, the mentally ill, high numbers of foreign nationals, women with serious health and drug problems, as well as high-risk prisoners.

The letters were followed up by a meeting between board members and Mr Lewis the fol-

lowing May. But Rachel Palmer, the retiring chairwoman of the board, said that while assurances were given that there would be a thorough review of the jail and the special needs of women in jail in general, there was no practical improvement at Holloway. It was only after Anne Widdowson, the present prisons minister, visited in July and was said to have been "shocked" by

what she saw, that £500,000 was found to recruit more staff. However, Mrs Palmer warned that unless there were fundamental changes at the jail, it would be difficult to bring about the much-needed improvements. "The jail needs the resources and flexibility to be able to provide the structured yet caring environment for these women that society demands," she said.

The fight for Forte: How the ambitions of two conflicting personalities have sparked one of the most bitter City battles for years



Billion-pound feud over feeding the nation's millions

MATHEW HORSMAN

There has rarely been a takeover battle so bitter and personal. The implications of the high-stakes bid by Granada for Forte go far beyond the City Square Mile, potentially affecting the lives of the millions of Britons who pull into motorway services, stay at budget hotels or grab a meal at a "family" restaurant just off the A23.

In one corner lurks mighty Granada, clutching two years' worth of secret research on its prey, convinced that its management style, innovation and intelligence give it an insuperable edge. Dogged in adversity, Forte is just as resolute. Sir Rocco Forte, the scion of the company's family founders, is so intent on rebutting the predator that he is prepared to break up the company and sell on some of the pieces.

For a bid that involves two giant, publicly trading companies, it is astonishing how personal the battle has become. Granada's Irish-born chief executive, Gerry Robinson, has a "big mouth" and "knows nothing about" hotel management, Sir Rocco says.

Mr Robinson ridicules Forte's poor management, and slyly derides Sir Rocco's penchant for shooting, an activity upon which the hapless hotels executive had been embarked just as Granada's £3.2bn bid was being announced last month.

It was easy enough for the media to fuel the personal jibes. The two men seemed so different: Mr Robinson, the self-made man and professional manager, complete with infectious laugh and, paradoxically, a reputation for ruthlessness; and Sir Rocco, heir to a family catering fortune, aloof and diffident. They even have different theories about work: Mr Robinson is a four and a half day-a-week man, dismissive of most over-working executives; Sir Rocco is a self-confessed workaholic.

Following two weeks of trading insults and criticisms, the two sides were finally ready to talk about the fundamentals. Forte said it would "demerge" its restaurants businesses – chiefly comprising its chain of Little Chef and Happy Eater outlets – and prune its hotels operations, which include some of the world's best-known properties such as the George V in

Paris and the Grosvenor House in London.

The radical response caught Granada off guard, and the predator was reduced to repeating that it could do more with Forte's assets than anybody else. But Forte was holding back its ace – an agreed deal to sell its restaurants business to Whitbread, the brewing and food retailing company, which was unveiled this week.

It was now Sir Rocco's chance to be smug, pointing out that Mr Robinson was holidaying at his country home in Donegal, Ireland, while Forte managers and advisers were working furiously in London.

Suddenly, the situation had become seriously complicated. Granada was offering to buy the whole of Forte, but was particularly attracted by the restaurants. By reaching a deal with Whitbread, which is conditional on the Granada bid lapsing, Forte has thrown down the gauntlet. The outcome of the battle is now so finely balanced that few are willing to predict



The heat is on: Sir Rocco Forte in the kitchen of the Waldorf Hotel, in London. Photograph: Universal Pictorial Press. Top left: A typical Beefeater Inn

which way it will go. In Granada's favour are Mr Robinson's stellar reputation as a cost-cutting, profit-maximising manager, its prowess at running catering and roadside services, and its ability – if pushed – to sweeten the bid.

But Granada also has vulnerable spots. Its bid reminds many of the bad old days of 1980s conglomerates. Why should a company that knows lots about catering and television – Granada TV and LWT are both in its stable – be any good at running hotels? If Granada has to raise its bid to as much as £4bn to win, can it find savings to compensate?

Forte, for his part, can claim that it has answered at least one concern of shareholders: that it had not made the most of the restaurants business. The answer it has come up with may look draconian, but £1bn in cash from Whitbread could go a long way towards convincing shareholders that the present management should be given another chance. This is particu-

larly the case if, as Sir Rocco and many experts argue, the hotels industry is beginning to turn upward once more.

Aside from the controversial "trophy" hotels, some of which may eventually be sold anyway, Forte relies on its chain of Meridien properties and its Posthouse and Crest middle-market hotels. Analysts believe the chains will be hugely profitable given the right management.

The restaurants, of course, will change bands whatever the outcome of the takeover bid. Both Granada and Whitbread have some radical plans.

A look at how Whitbread manages its existing range of eating-out places provides a taste of what is to come. Just along the majestic South Downs Way from Trillick Hill, above Devil's Dyke in East Sussex, sits a squat low-lying building neatly surrounded by a car park. Inside, rows of tables are ranged around a main room, one step down from the long bar and the food service area. On each table, lies a colourful menu

and a plaque with a number. This is a Brewer's Fayre, one of 266 in the country, and it is fast becoming the new face of the mid-market English restaurant.

The Whitbread "format" boasts a family atmosphere, standard food, fed by centralised kitchens and ordered, prepared and delivered thanks to state-of-the-art information technology. "Take note of your table number," the sign says, "before you order your food."

Woe betide anyone wanting to mix and match from the menu.

Whitbread now wants to bring its well-tried concepts to Forte's restaurant business. Indeed, refurbishing the sites, and bringing in new technology, is arguably Whitbread's chief justification for offering to take the restaurants.

Consider the results: a chain of 430 restaurants where you know exactly what you will get: a kind of McDonald's without the formica.

Whitbread has already proved that the format works.

Its Beefeater and Brewers Fayre chains put sit-down dining within reach of the average family, and its brand names, notably Pizza Hut, attract customers who know in advance what they want.

Under the leadership of Peter Jarvis, chief executive, Whitbread has caught a wave that has come to dominate the food retailing business. Increasingly, branding and predictability are the driving forces. Granada knows it too: it has put Burger Kings into its motorway service outlets, just as Forte has invited in McDonald's to some of its 26 Welcome Break sites.

In the end, it will be up to Forte's shareholders to decide which of the two companies will get a chance to prove the point. For the consumer, however, the future is already sharply focused. More standard fare, at reasonable prices: a hotel room for £35 a night that looks the same in the North as the South; branded fast food every two dozen miles along the M1. Does it really matter who wins?



Rival contenders: Gerry Robinson (left) and Peter Jarvis

Jack and Jessica top name lists

Jack and Jessica were the most popular names for babies born in 1995, according to a report yesterday.

Both names rose from third place in 1994 to claim top spots in the boys' and girls' lists as last year's favourites Thomas and Rebecca slipped back to third.

This year has also been a surge of support for Shannon, rising 22 places to 11th, and three names made the top 50 for

the first time – Ellie, Abbie and Kayleigh.

Daniel was the second most popular boy's name while James slipped from second to fourth.

Among the girls, Lauren remained in second place, with Sophie fourth, followed by Charlotte and Hannah.

At present out of favour are the boys' names Andrew and Jonathan – they both dropped seven places to 27th and 36th

respectively. Meanwhile, Anna, Louise, Richard, Stephen and Mark have all fallen out of the top 50.

Up and coming names in the lists released by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys are Cameron, in 46th place, Reece (48) and Charlie (49).

They did not feature in the lists of the top 100 most popular first names 10 years ago. The name game, page 16

Last year's place in brackets			
GIRLS		BOYS	
1. Jessica (3)	15. Katie (14)	1. Jack (3)	17. Connor (28)
2. Lauren (2)	16. Lucy (13)	2. Daniel (4)	18. William (19)
3. Rebecca (1)	17. Sarah (12)	3. Thomas (1)	19. Jake (20)
4. Sophie (6)	18. Alice (18)	4. James (2)	20. Christopher (14)
5. Charlotte (4)	19. Jade (15)	5. Joshua (7)	21. George (21)
6. Hannah (5)	20. Danielle (21)	6. Matthew (5)	22. Harry (30)
7. Amy (7)	21. Abigail (23)	7. Ryan (6)	23. Callum (31)
8. Emily (8)	22. Olivia (24)	8. Luke (8)	24. Lewis (22)
9. Chloe (11)	23. Rachael (19)	9. Samuel (9)	25. Oliver (23)
10. Emma (10)	24. Eleanor (32)	10. Jordan (10)	26. Kieran (36)
11. Shannon (33)	25. Samantha (20)	11. Joseph (16)	27. Andrew (20)
12. Laura (9)	26. Elizabeth (26)	12. Liam (17)	28. Robert (25)
13. Bethany (15)	27. Georgia (28)	13. Alexander (13)	29. Nathan (27)
14. Megan (17)	28. Victoria (27)	14. Benjamin (15)	30. David (24)
	29. Holly (22)	15. Michael (12)	31. Jamie (26)
	30. Zoe (30)	16. Adam (11)	32. Aaron (32)
	31. Natalie (28)		33. Bradley (34)
	32. Paige (34)		34. Ashley (33)
			35. Jacob (35)
			36. Jonathan (29)
			37. Mohammed (41)
			38. Kyle (43)
			39. John (39)
			40. Sam (38)
			41. Ben (40)
			42. Scott (37)
			43. Charles (44)
			44. Sean (46)
			45. Edward (47)
			46. Cameron (new entry)
			47. Nicholas (42)
			48. Reece (new entry)
			49. Charlie (new entry)
			50. Dominic (new entry)

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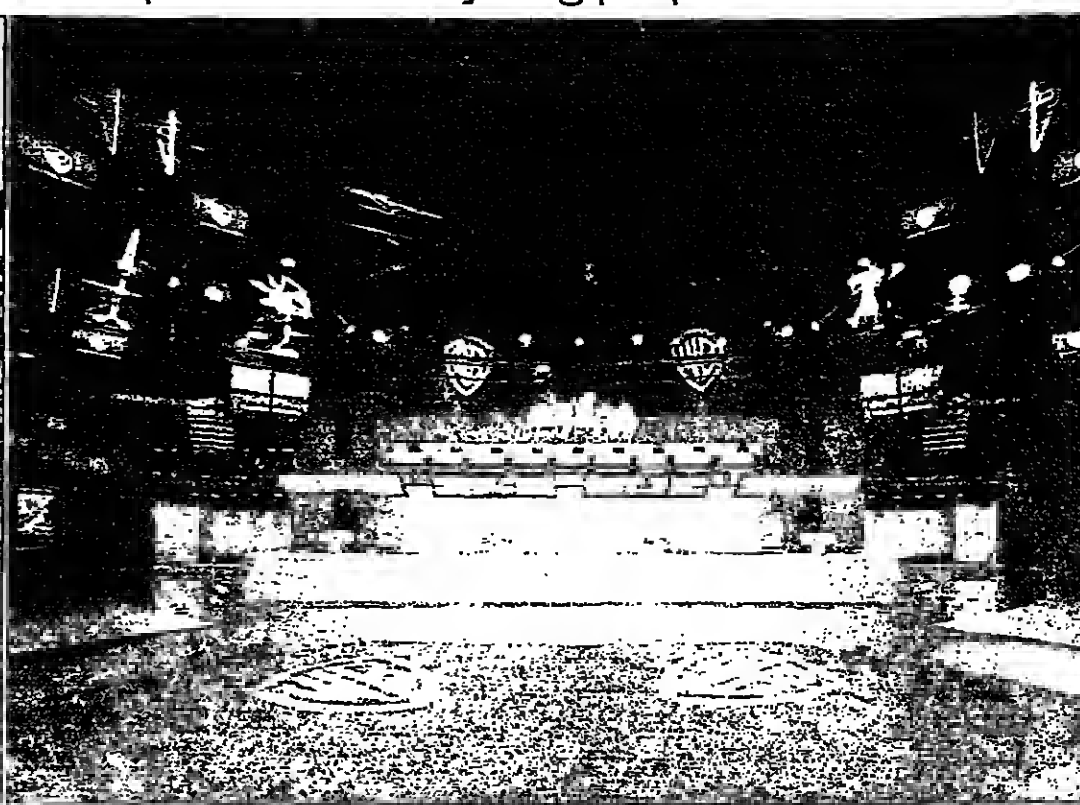
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Abstract

106
PEUGEOT

THE PEUGEOT 106. I LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND.

[illegible]



Ancient and modern: Britain's oldest picture house, the Electric Cinema, in Portobello Road, west London (Photograph: David Rose) and the shape of things to come, a Warner Brothers' multiplex

A new golden age revives the silver screen

IAN MACKINNON

"I am particularly keen to speak to anyone who may have seen her before the attack."

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news

Parental choice: More families are challenging local education authority decisions after being denied their preferred option

Appeals over school places rise by 120%

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Appeals by parents who fail to get their children into the school of their choice have risen by 120 per cent during the last five years, according to figures released today.

There were nearly 46,000 appeals in 1994 compared with about 21,000 five years earlier. The total number of parents who have appealed against local authorities' allocation of places during that period is 173,000.

The number who decided to persist with their cases as far as a statutory appeals panel has also risen sharply.

Some parents negotiate with their local councils and reach agreement about their child's school without going to a formal appeal hearing. Others

abandon their appeals because they decide not to prolong uncertainty for their children or because vacancies arise in the schools of their choice.

In 1989, 15,171 cases were heard before committees compared with 32,188 in 1994. Of that total 6,534 were successful in 1989 and 13,255 in 1994 – a similar proportion.

All the figures were revealed in parliamentary answers to Stephen Byers, the Labour MP for Wallasey.

Government critics say that there are two main reasons why appeals have gone up. First, ministers' talk of parental choice has encouraged more parents who fail to get the school of their choice to challenge council decisions.

Secondly, the Government's policy of allowing market forces to determine which schools

flourish and which decline has increased the gap between schools.

Mr Byers said: "While the Tories talk of extending parental choice these figures reveal that more and more parents are being denied the school of their choice. There is a growing army of parents who feel angry at being deceived by the Government."

"That so many parents have been prepared to go all the way and suffer the trauma and stress of a full hearing before a statutory committee is a clear indication of the strength of feeling amongst parents."

Councils say that every appeal costs them money. David Whitbread, the education under-secretary at the Association of County Councils, said: "Government policies have tended to enhance the appeal-

ance of a pecking order across schools, by giving the impression that grant-maintained schools are better than the rest and by publishing league tables."

He added: "You get more overall parental satisfaction if you try and keep a greater equality of esteem among schools."

One of the results of the increase in appeals, he said, was that popular schools were becoming overcrowded. Schools have to be full before they can refuse a pupil a place.

Margaret Tulloch, secretary of the Campaign for State Education, said the Government had shifted the blame for school choice on to parents.

She added: "They say they have given parents the information and it is their fault if they make the wrong choice."



Right to choose: Rachel Hart and her parents, who were angry at the lack of local places. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Parents fight to spare girl 30-mile round trip

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

At the age of 11, Rachel Hart was told she must make a 30-mile round trip to school each day because there were no school places locally.

The two grant-maintained secondary schools near her home in Stoneleigh, Surrey, were full and the only one that could take her was in Dorking.

Faced with the prospect of seeing their daughter off on a lengthy train and bus ride each day, her parents, Paul and Beverly, went to appeal. They argued that Beverly had medical problems and did not drive, and that Rachel had a right to be ed-

CASE STUDY

located in the borough of Epsom and Ewell, where she lived.

The Harts were among almost 300 families in Surrey and in neighbouring Sutton who were told their children could not go to the secondary schools near their homes.

The problem was caused by an increase in the number of 11-year-olds but was aggravated by the fact that many local schools had opted out and introduced separate admissions procedures.

The government has tried to increase parental choice of schools in recent years, but Rachel's father is sceptical. He believes the changes, coupled

with the introduction of exam league tables, has left some families with no choice at all.

"I get the impression that there is choice; the schools choose which children they want. They are running private businesses where profit is measured in exam results," he said.

The Harts lost their appeal, but were told just a few weeks before the autumn term started that Rachel could go to Rosebery Girls' School, a short distance from her home. As a result of parental pressure, the agency which funds opted-out schools had provided extra places and is now planning to build a new local school to take up the shortfall.

Show goes on for Manics

JOHN MCKIE

Manic Street Preachers, the cult rock band, will play in London tonight for the first time since their guitarist mysteriously disappeared nearly a year ago.

The band had played the Astoria, in London, just before Christmas last year after a successful year during which their album *The Holy Bible* had made the Top 10.

Then in February, their 25-year-old guitarist Richey Edwards left a hotel in west London and has not been seen or heard from since. The next week his abandoned car was

found a few yards from the Severn Bridge. Edwards has been presumed dead for months.

The remaining members – the singer and guitarist James Dean Bradfield, the bass player Nicky Wire and the drummer Sean Moore – are to take the stage again and are playing to 12,000 people at Wembley Arena, as support to The Stone Roses.

The date followed consultation between the band and Edwards' parents. "They couldn't turn it down," said Terri Hall, their publicist. "We are in touch with Richey's family all the time. They've written some new songs and they'll mix that with the old stuff in a 40-minute set."



Richey Edwards: Missing for almost a year

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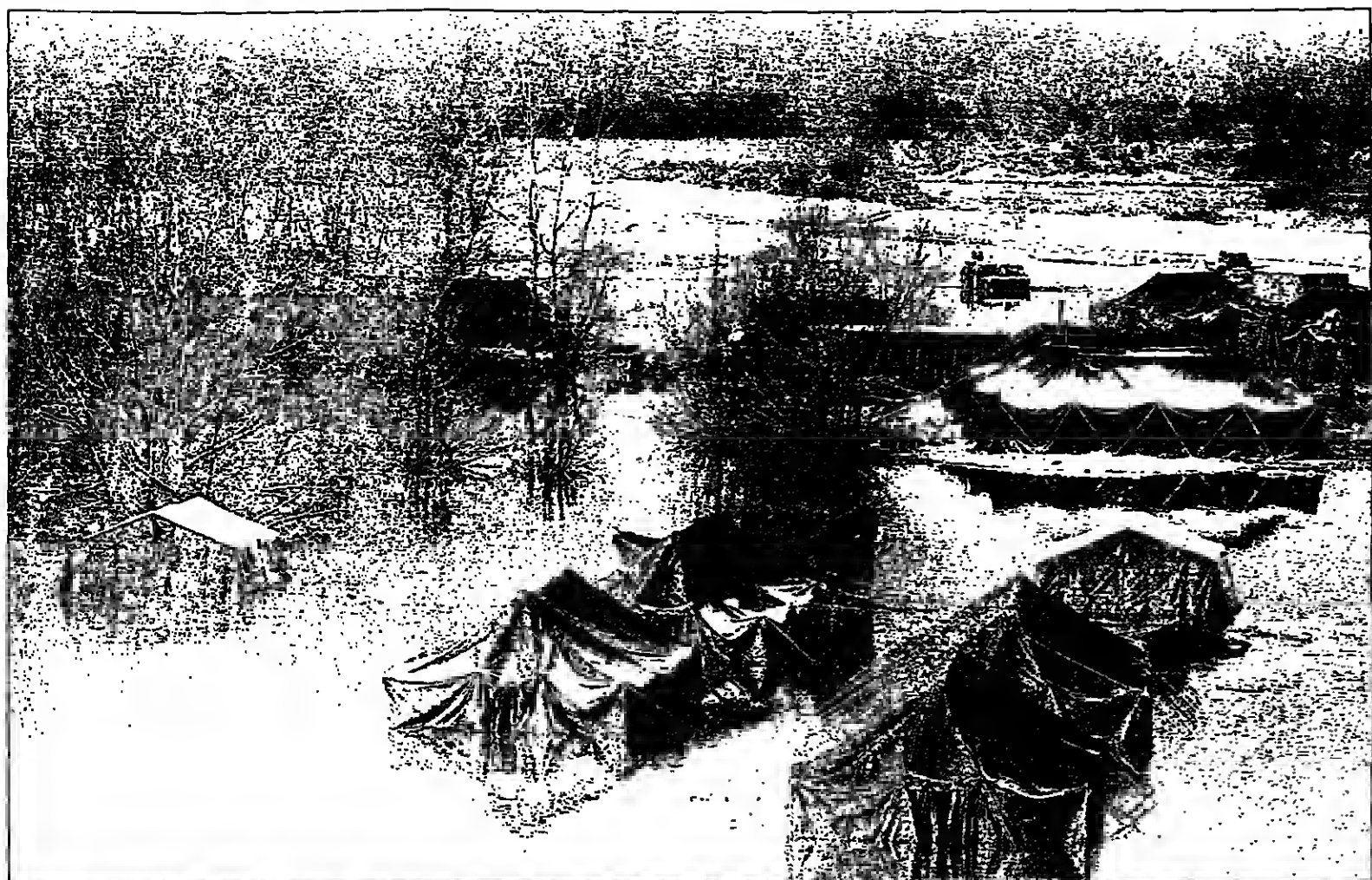
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Enemies meet Sarajevo pull-out deadline



Washed out: US engineers had to evacuate their camp in Zupanja, Croatia, yesterday when flash-floods struck

Photograph: Petr Josek/Reuters

EMMA DALY
Sarajevo

Torrential rain and relentless snow dampened French and American spirits in Bosnia yesterday, but Nato commanders expressed delight at the success of the first peace deadline at midnight on Wednesday: the withdrawal of enemy troops from front-line positions around Sarajevo.

"Today in Sarajevo the first phase of the peace agreement... was respected," Brigadier-General Louis Zeller, commander of Nato's I-For (Implementation Force) troops in Sarajevo, told reporters at a press conference in the snow on the notorious Vrbanka bridge. The operation "was conducted with concern for even-handedness and strict impartiality and, one must emphasise, the collaboration of the parties".

There was little to celebrate along other Bosnian riverbanks. In Mostar and Zupanja, where French and US troops are based, flash-floods tore through I-For camps, damaging vehicles and other equipment but causing no casualties. Helicopters lifted 62 Foreign Legionnaires to safety from a riverside camp north of Mostar, where a dam burst and floods closed the main road to Sarajevo for 24 hours.

In Zupanja, on the Sava River border with Croatia, US engineers trying to install pontoon bridges to bring across American tanks and troops

were evacuated overnight when their camp was flooded. "The water broke through the levee and flooded the camp... Everybody got out safely," said Colonel Timothy Lamb.

On Wednesday night a Croatian soldier looted off 30 rounds of gunfire close to the US camp, but the incident was played down as a burst of celebratory Christmas fire. Most shooting in Bosnia since Nato's arrival has come under the heading of "happy fire", but commanders have warned the parties to stop such ill-discipline.

US officers insisted the floods would not defeat them, but the weather is almost certain to delay further the US deployment to the northern city of Tuzla, which got off to a bad start when flights were delayed for five days by fog. But 26,000 of the expected 60,000 Nato troops are now in Bosnia.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the US commander of I-For, was in ebullient mood at a breakfast with journalists yesterday, citing excellent progress to date. "I want to capitalise on that, I want to build on the momentum," he said - though he acknowledged that the first peace deadline, requiring both sides to pull back from 40 positions around Sarajevo within seven days of Nato's arrival, came during a bone-dry moon period.

"It's real easy - it's easy to verify, it's close to home and it's early in the game," he said. "We're going to know in the next three months if we've got an agreement." None the less, he was astonished by accomplishments to date - particularly the immediate deployment of British I-For troops in Serb-held territory. "That's amazing," he said. "I thought it would be

months before anyone would start talking about putting headquarters anywhere in Bosnian Serb territory."

Nato plans to move one of its army headquarters from central Sarajevo to Ilidza, a western suburb due to revert from Serb to government control next year - to the consternation of its Serb residents. The I-For presence, Admiral Smith said, would help to reassure Serbs planning to abandon their homes and head into exile.

"If you are going to move and you have no place to go, staying has got to be better than going if you have I-For," he said. "By being present we can reduce fears by offering a more stable environment." But he admitted: "I can't guarantee the security of every family and every individual." Nor could his forces end the looting of machinery and other equipment by Serbs leaving the area.

The Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, saying the "hitter and cold peace" of Dayton offered hope for 1996, yesterday reiterated his government's suggestion that Serbs in the five suburbs remain in their homes - but did nothing new to calm fears that the government will seek revenge upon those who besieged the city for so long.

"I consider this war to be over," he said in a New Year's address to reporters and members of the ruling SDA party. "It will take generations to forget those who attacked us and the beating we received. I don't think they will dare to raise their hands against these people again... that's why I'm confident this is the introduction to a durable and lasting peace."

Sarajevo Diary, page 13
Jonathan Eyal, page 15

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Arafat accepts the challenge

Yasser Arafat has one challenge so far for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority. She is Samiha Khalil, a 70-year-old political activist and charity worker from Ramallah, on the West Bank. Ms Khalil, who wants the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accord to be scrapped, says she can win the 20 January election despite the fact that Mr Arafat has symbolised the Palestinian struggle for decades.

"People are whispering they are not happy with what is happening on their land," she explained, adding: "It is my conviction that the Oslo accords fall short of achieving the fundamental objectives of our people, that of full sovereignty and independence. We want an independent Palestinian state with real sovereignty, and permanent and comprehensive peace can be achieved when rights are restored."

Mr Arafat is reported to be happy about the challenge because he wants a genuine contest. "Arafat does not want the election results to be 99.99 per cent, as is the case with other Arab leaders," one PLO official said.

Before her second marriage last Saturday, Tonya Harding said she was planning a more mellow life. The disgraced skater wanted to live on a farm and raise a family. Things started well enough: the ceremony, on a yacht in the Willamette River in Oregon,

was without incident but the aftermath was no honeymoon.

According to reports from Portland, an amateur photographer identified only as Bob, a wedding guest, snapped a photo and sold it to the *Oregonian*. Ms Harding was furious, believing the sale would cause

PEOPLE

the *Globe*, a national weekly tabloid, to cancel its \$10,000 (£6,500) contract with her for rights to her wedding pictures. The *Globe* decided to proceed, after Bob, Ms Harding, her new husband, Michael Smith, and a *Globe* photographer met to discuss the situation.

Their talks reportedly broke up with Bob leaving. Ms Harding yelling profanities and Mr Smith jumping into Bob's girlfriend's car, which he said had struck him. Ms Harding gave chase in her car and allegedly rammed the other woman's vehicle. "She just hit us. Bam!" said Bob.

No charges have been filed, but for Ms Harding, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution in the 1994 knee-bashing attack on her skating rival Nancy Kerrigan, the fracas is a "remembrance I don't want to have of my wedding".

France, that popular destination of political refugees, has acquired yet another. Prince Norodom Sirivudh, the half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, flew into Paris last weekend, having chosen exile over trial on charges of plotting to assassinate his country's co-prime minister, Hun Sen.

The prince has denied the allegations, but accepted the exile proposal from the King, who said he feared his half-brother might be killed if he stayed home to fight the charges.

Mr Hun Sen and his co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, acceded to King Sihanouk's request that the prince be released into his custody. Prince Norodom Sirivudh has written to the co-prime ministers to thank them for their clemency and has vowed to keep well out of Cambodian politics.

Leah Rabin plans to write a book about her life with the assassinated Israeli prime minister. "This is the most important thing to me, to sum up this chapter of my life with Yitzhak, the bitter end and the obvious conclusions," she said on Israeli radio.

"It was something I intended to do anyway, even before Yitzhak was murdered," Mrs Rabin added. "I just didn't have the trigger, something to push me especially. Now I have one."

Since her husband's death on 4 November, Mrs Rabin has been busy answering letters of condolence and attending ceremonies in her husband's memory. Thanks to the Israeli cabinet, she will have an office, a car and a driver for three years to help her promote Rabin's legacy of peace.

Maryann Bird

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A warm feeling for washing dried in the jetstream

HONG KONG DAYS

Airports are supposed to be functional, not the sort of place to excite passion. Yet Kai Tak Airport, Hong Kong, evokes tremendous passion among the people who live here. Where else can you be decanted from a plane and, traffic permitting, reach your home or office within minutes rather than hours of leaving the airport?

Maybe it is proximity which accounts for the passion. This, after all, is the world's last remaining international airport slap bang in the middle of town. Now that it is moving far from the urban centre, many of us who love and hate Kai Tak are beginning to feel nostalgic about losing this convenience.

Kai Tak would have been even more convenient had it not been for the mind-boggling decision to ensure that the mass transit railway deliberately bypassed the airport. I am told that the chief culprit in this matter was the former Financial Secretary Sir John Bremridge who took the extraordinary view that air travellers had enough money to travel by taxi and therefore did not need to arrive by public transport.

The reality is that the airport is bursting with people, notwithstanding the lack of public transport. You cannot stop people travelling, nor can you prevent the traditional Asian insistence on greeting and seeing off passengers. Nor can even the most blasé of people persuade me that there is anything quite like passing under the path of a landing jumbo jet

while on the way to the office. It is a modern-day version of the excitement shared by closet trainspotters brought up in an age when there were trains worth spotting.

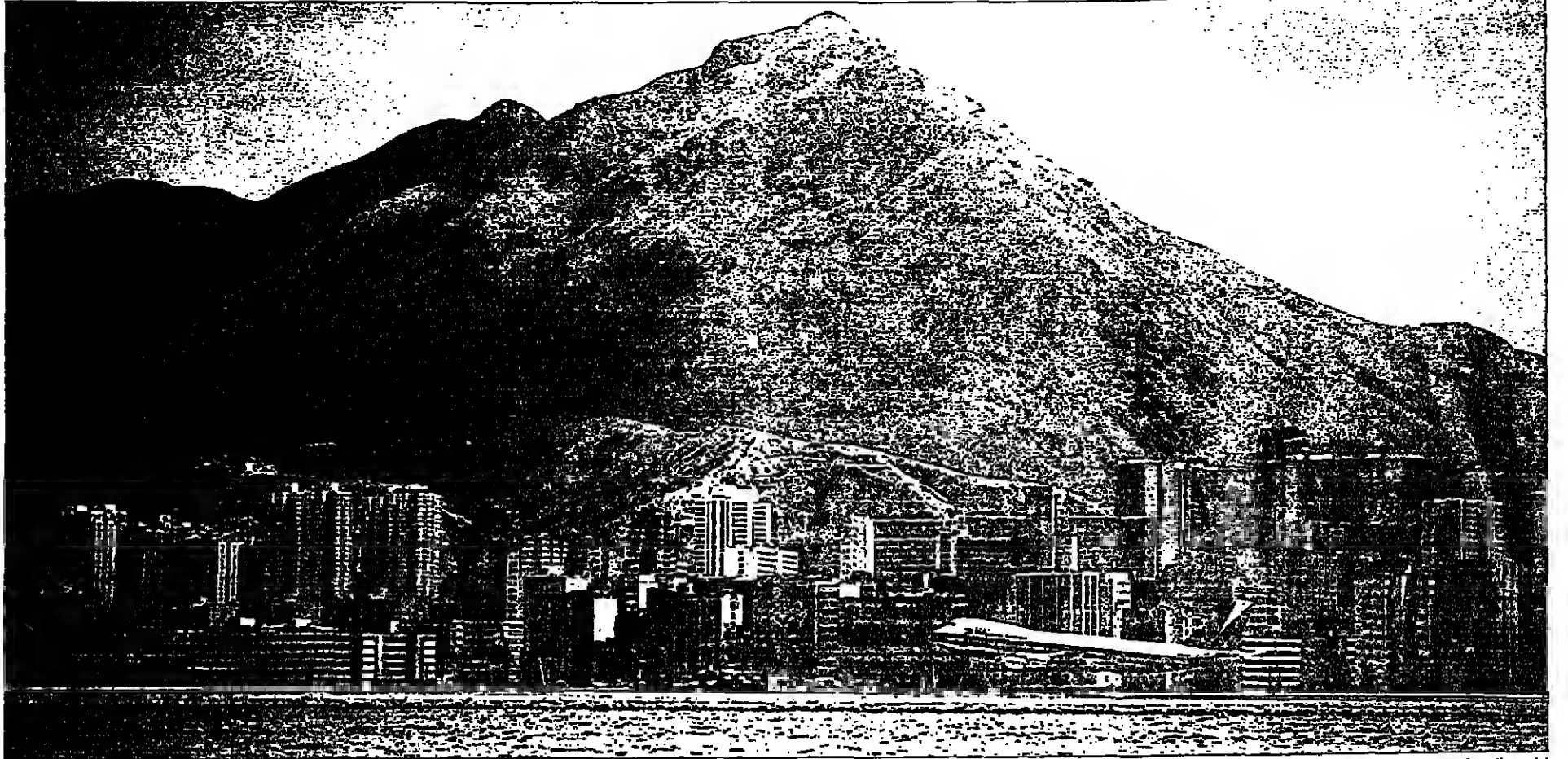
Pilots have to be specially trained to land at Kai Tak. It is a difficult approach, usually requiring a sharp turn before roaring on to the single runway which stretches into the harbour. Pilots say they fly so low over the urban area that they can ruffle the washing drying on nearby rooftops.

Of course, having a large airport in the middle of town is a safety hazard. The surprise is that there has never been an incident where an aircraft has even remotely touched a building outside the airport and only a very few landing accidents have occurred at the airport.

The new Chek Lap Kok airport is now slowly rising out of the water, on reclaimed land, and looks appropriately impressive on paper. It should also be more comfortable.

At least planes will be able to draw up to the terminal instead of parking some distance away because of congestion. At Kai Tak, passengers have to be crammed in the squat buses which shuttle from the aircraft to the terminal building. It is time-consuming, noisy and generally inconvenient.

On arrival the passengers embark on a long walk in the direction of unsmiling immigration officials who all appear to have failed training at the Hong Kong School of Charm but are



Planespotter's paradise: Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport is the world's last remaining international airport sited in a city centre

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

probably no less surly than their counterparts in other countries who seem to vie with each other to see who can furnish the most hostile welcome to visitors.

There is another aspect of the old Kai Tak airport, now forgotten by many, which, I think,

somehow unwittingly captured the spirit of Hong Kong.

Some six or seven years ago the terminal building was filled with school children hunched over their homework. They came to the airport because the air conditioning was strong.

the lighting good and they were left alone to get on with their work outside the tiny, noisy apartments where most of them lived. Here was a perfect example of the children's determination to get ahead, finding a place which allowed them to

work and pursuing their work seemingly oblivious to the distractions which surrounded them.

Unsurprisingly, the airport authorities did not view this as a shining example of Hong Kong enterprise; the children

were seen as an unseemly nuisance which somehow lowered the image of the airport and so they were cleared out.

I am confident that the authorities running the new airport will be even more vigilant in stamping out anything similar.

Stephen Vines

Peking stands by dissident's jail sentence

TERESA POOLE
Peking

A 14-year jail sentence for China's most prominent pro-democracy dissident, Wei Jingsheng, was upheld yesterday by Peking's appeal court amid signs that a combative Chinese government has embarked on a campaign to head off international criticism at the UN Human Rights Commission session in Geneva next March.

A spokesman for the Peking Higher People's Court, speaking after the closed court session, said: "The court upheld the original verdict. After this verdict, according to the law, he will be handed over to prison authorities to serve his sentence." Mr Wei was sentenced earlier this month after being found guilty of trying to subvert the government.

Mr Wei's trial prompted widespread international condemnation, but there was no hope of the sentence being revoked on appeal. Chinese trials, let alone appeals, are virtually rubber-stamping processes for verdicts that have already been decided. In 1994, according to official figures, only 0.39 per cent of those tried were found innocent.

Yesterday also saw the failed appeal of a former planning official in Shenzhen, south China, who was immediately executed by firing squad. Wang Jianye was found guilty in April of bribery and embezzlement involving more than \$1m

(£600,000). He was extradited from Thailand in September 1994 after Chinese officials told the Thai authorities that he would not be executed, according to Mr Wang's wife.

The Chinese government these days appears immune to international pressure over human rights abuses, and is adopt-



Protesters in Hong Kong register their disapproval

ing an increasingly aggressive posture ahead of the Geneva meeting. Since 1990, China has faced an annual motion, sponsored by the United States, condemning its human rights record, although these have so far been defeated because China has lobbied support from developing countries.

Sensing that the Wei Jingsheng trial is likely to make the next vote even closer, the State Council yesterday published a

23,000-word manifesto, "The Progress of Human Rights in China", in which it lambasted the Geneva motions as "anti-China plots of the West".

The document praised China's commitment to human rights. Citizens "enjoy various civil and political rights according to law", it claimed. "Freedom of speech, of the press, assembly, association, marching and demonstration is guaranteed," it added.

In a section on the judiciary which Mr Wei is unlikely to have the opportunity to read, the document states: "Those who hold differing political views, but have committed no act endangering state security, have committed no crime." More pertinent, from Mr Wei's point of view, is the line that "prisoners are organised to participate in whatever labour they are capable of".

The Chinese Communist Party's response to the West has always been that the country gives priority to economic development and political stability. In the latest document, only one sentence admits to any shortcomings in human rights in China: "Some human rights situations are not so satisfactory because of the limitations of history and level of development."

China published its last cabinet report on human rights in November 1991, in an attempt to improve its image after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in June 1989.

France condemned for fifth nuclear test

Sydney (AP) — Asian and Pacific nations joined environmental groups yesterday in condemning France for its fifth nuclear test in French Polynesia in four months.

Australia, New Zealand and Japan called for an immediate halt to testing and handed formal protests to French diplomats in their capitals. South Korea voiced "deep disappointment" while island states near France's nuclear test site accused it of arrogance. "France is its own worst enemy," said New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jim Bolger. "Its reputation in the Pacific is at an all-time low. When the tests are over, France will have to rebuild its credentials in the region."

The blast on Wednesday, beneath the remote Mururoa coral atoll 750 miles south-east of Tahiti, was weaker than previous blasts, scientists said. French officials said the tests

are needed to develop simulation technology to make future blasts unnecessary. France had planned eight tests but has reduced the number to six, to be completed by February.

"We are now close to the end of this final campaign," a foreign ministry spokesman said in Paris. "We have been and continue to be part of negotiations to bring about a treaty for a complete ban on nuclear tests."

Australia's acting Prime Minister, Kim Beazley, accused France of displaying "arrogant disregard" for a recent UN resolution calling for an immediate end to nuclear testing. The Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, described France's tests as "fruitless".

Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, attacked President Jacques Chirac of France for the blast's timing. "He is trying to rub people's noses in the fact

that in the season of good will he can defy international opinion and order fresh nuclear tests," she said. Britain has stayed clear of the debate. The Foreign Office said that the test program at Mururoa "is a matter for the French."

Paris — France will replace its ageing fleet of Mirage-IV nuclear bombers with newer Mirage-2000N fighter-bombers next year, a defence ministry spokesman said yesterday. Reuter reports. The Mirage-2000N has a slightly shorter range than the Mirage-IV but mid-air refuelling could make up for the shortfall.

The defence newsletter ITU said recently that President Chirac had decided to develop a long-range cruise missile with a nuclear warhead that could be fired by the new Rafale fighter-bomber from up to 560 miles. Rafales are to come into service in the next century.

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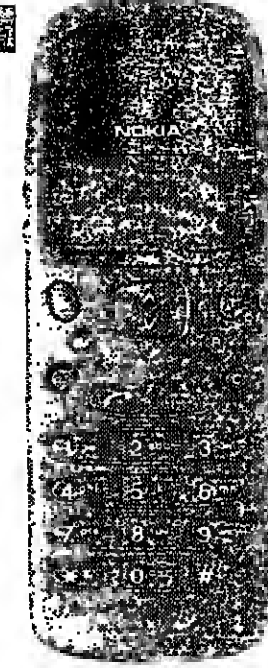
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international

Israel finds new ally to stop Iran N-bomb

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Diplomatic Editor

Israel has enlisted the help of the Muslim central Asian state of Kazakhstan, once a key part of the old Soviet nuclear arsenal, in its campaign to stop Iran from making or acquiring a nuclear bomb.

This unusual alliance emerged after the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, publicly hinted that Israel was ready to renounce its own nuclear weapons if a comprehensive peace was achieved in the Middle East.

Mr Peres this week signed joint agreements on health, agriculture, investment and the environment with the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, on an official visit to Israel. But the real talking was done earlier between the Kazakh leader and Israel's Foreign Minister, Ehud Barak.

Mr Barak told President Nazarbayev that Israeli intelligence assessments indicated Iran intended to get hold of a simple nuclear weapon by 2001.

He said the Israelis believed Iran was trying to bring in experts from the former Soviet Union and was also involved in negotiations with criminal elements, probably among the various mafias which have sprung up across the former Soviet republics.

Iran denies that it intends to acquire nuclear weapons and maintains that its nuclear programme is intended exclusively for peaceful development. Western intelligence agencies believe that an inner cabinet in Tehran oversees a secret Iranian project to get a nuclear weapon.

President Nazarbayev told the Israelis he was working to curb Iranian influence in his vast, landlocked territory. But

he insisted on the usefulness of continued political contacts with the President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and the clerical leadership of Iran.

The removal of nuclear materials from Kazakhstan, and its accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), were critical security issues for the West after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Since Kazakhstan has now voluntarily given up the nuclear weapons once stationed on its soil, the Israelis calculate that it would be very unhappy to see Iran get the bomb.

The very fact of President Nazarbayev's visit to the Zionist state shows that the Kazakh political establishment rejects the Islamic revolutionary theology of Iran, although links between the two Muslim nations are inevitably close.

Israel, unlike Iran, has not signed the NPT and foreign ex-

perts believe it has up to 200 warheads available for use on its Jericho missile.

But Mr Peres came near to departing from the usual Israeli ambiguity about his country's nuclear resources just before Christmas, when he said: "Give me peace and we will give up the atom. That's the whole story. If we achieve regional peace, I think we can make the Middle East free of any nuclear threat."

The statement caused political controversy in Israel but it was clearly designed to ward off continuing pressure on the nuclear issue from Egypt and other Arab partners in the Middle East peace negotiations.

Israel's position is that it will sign the NPT only two years after a comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East, including such unlikely participants as Iran, Iraq and Libya. Arab critics take this as a formula for indefinite delay.



Flags for freedom: Schoolgirls blow whistles as they join tens of thousands of Palestinians watching a parade yesterday to mark Israel's military withdrawal from Ramallah on the West Bank

Hundreds die as blizzards sweep across Asia

While Britain shivers in the cold, bad weather has claimed hundreds of lives in Asia and Africa, agencies report.

At least 99 people have died of frostbite over the past week and many more are missing after a series of blizzards hit northern Kazakhstan, the country's State Emergency Committee said yesterday.

Weather forecasters said winds of 70mph brought down power and telephone lines, lifted roofs off homes and blew in windows. Many people were stranded in near-zero visibility and temperatures down to -15°C. Winter snowstorms are common in the Kazakh steppes, used in Soviet times to exile political prisoners, but officials say they have been worse this year.

Health officials in Russia say that nearly 250 people have frozen to death in Moscow over the past two months. All the victims registered since the first death on 1 November were drunk, a spokesman for the city's health department told the Interfax news agency. Temperatures in the Russian capital this month have dropped well below freezing, and have been as low as -19°C.

In Bangladesh, a cold wave has swept through the north of

the country, killing at least 50 people. Most of the victims were children or old women. A cold wave last year, claimed about 200 lives.

In southern Africa, heavy rains have broken a long drought, but brought flooding in their wake. In South Africa, flooding has claimed more than 100 lives this week and about 2,000 people lost their homes in the Pietermaritzburg area.

The waters were receding yesterday, but a new threat of disease was emerging. "With so much water around, water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid are easily spread," Adrian Wilson, an official with the regional water board, told the South African Press Association.

Dams in Zimbabwe's western province burst their walls following heavy rains which pounded the area last week, the state news agency Zina said yesterday. Among the dams was Matabeleland North province's largest water reservoir whose earth wall was not strong enough to contain pressure from water flowing in from supply rivers. And more than 300 people were left homeless in southern Malawi after heavy rains washed away their homes.

IN BRIEF

Gonzalez calls early general election

Madrid - Buffeted by political scandals, the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, called early elections for 3 March. Mr Gonzalez, who has reluctantly agreed to lead his Socialist Party in an election for a seventh time, said he had told King Juan Carlos he would dissolve parliament the week after next. The campaign would officially begin in mid-February. *AP*

Peking freezes out Hong Kong democrats

Hong Kong - China excluded local democrats as it appointed the team which will be responsible for steering the colony through its transition from British to Chinese rule in 1997. The 150-member Preparatory Committee of men and women drew heavily from the colony's business elite. Members of pro-Peking political parties defeated in the Legislative Council election in September were appointed. *Reuters*

Italian PM set to resign

Rome - The Italian Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini, will hand in his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro tomorrow, Luigi Berlinguer, parliamentary leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, said after a meeting with Mr Dini. Mr Scalfaro has said that parliament must then decide if it wants to move to an early general election at the start of next year or if the political will exists to create a cross-party government to carry out constitutional reforms. *Reuters*

Hammer and sickle stamped out

Berlin - One of the last vestiges of Communist East Germany will disappear at midnight tomorrow, when eastern passports adorned with the hammer and sickle become invalid, more than five years after German unity. *Reuters*

Begging the question

Rome - Italy's constitutional court legalised begging and criticised developed countries for turning poor people into social outcasts. Overturning a law which said that beggars could be punished by up to three months in prison, the court ruled that people in need should be allowed to ask openly for money. *Reuters*

Paper chase

Munich - A German security van driver disappeared after stealing 2.5m marks (£1.1m) from his vehicle and replacing the cash with scrap paper. The crime was thought to have been carried out two days before Christmas, but was not discovered until Wednesday. *Reuters*

Gifts of the gab

Salt Lake City - A "boy" showered with presents and offers of a home after telling the authorities he had been abandoned by his parents only days before his 13th birthday turned out to be Birdie Jo Hoaks, a 25-year-old woman who has attempted similar frauds in at least 11 other states. *AP*

Future imperfect

Los Angeles - A grand jury was told that Robert Citron, former treasurer of Orange County, south of Los Angeles, consulted an astrologer and a psychic for investment advice while in office, the Los Angeles Times reported. Among alleged predictions was that December 1994 would be a bad month. The county declared bankruptcy on 6 December 1994. *AP*

For your daily requirement of iron, you'd have to eat this much.

Ditto.

You need to eat a variety of foods to get all the iron you need each day. If you're a normal healthy person, a lean, grilled rump steak (170g) will supply you with half your daily requirement. To get the same amount from raw spinach, you'd have to eat 680g of it. That's because your body absorbs at least twice as much iron from red meat than from an equivalent weight of spinach. Red meat also helps you absorb more iron from other foods, including spinach.**

So, unless you have a very big appetite for spinach, what better excuse do you need to enjoy a tender, juicy steak?

Race for the White House: As rivals fall by wayside the Republican Senate leader looks set to take on Clinton

Luck puts repackaged Dole ahead of the pack

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

As a clutch of Republican candidates make their way to Iowa, where a month from now the most brutal election season on earth begins, one question alone is relevant: can anything or anyone stop the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, from finally securing his party's presidential nomination?

Contrary to most predictions, Mr Dole's position today is even more dominant than a year ago; 1995 was supposed to be the year when one or two candidates emerged from the pack to establish themselves as rivals, but no one has. As the Kansas Senator knows from two failed White House bids in 1980 and 1988, in presidential politics as in life, nothing is certain. But the odds today must be that he will clinch victory within five weeks of the Iowa caucuses on 12 February.

On 20 February comes the New Hampshire primary, then contests in Delaware and Arizona, followed by consecutive "Super Tuesdays" in New England and much of the South. By 19 March, when the big Midwest states of Ohio, Illinois and Michigan vote, matters may well be decided.

In every sense Mr Dole bestrides the field. At 72, he is by far its oldest member. He leads

in the polls with 40 per cent or more, as his closest rivals struggle to reach double figures. With \$24m (£15.7m) in the bank, he is by far the best financed candidate. He has the endorsement of 20 of the 31 sitting Republican state governors - not to mention his role in the continuing fight in Washington over the federal budget, guaranteeing him free media exposure of which his challengers can but dream.

And, just as with any winning politician, luck has been with him. If Mr Dole could have written the Colin Powell script, he would not have changed a word from real life. For weeks in the autumn his declared rivals could but kick their feet in frustration as American politics froze, waiting for the word from the General. In the end, General Powell joined the Republican party, but not the presidential race. Thus Mr Dole was spared from taking on the most popular figure in US public life, who even among conservative Republican primary voters was running neck and neck with him in the polls.

There were lesser strokes of fortune too. A year ago many political insiders believed Pete Wilson, the canny and battle-tested California Governor, was the man most likely to upset Mr Dole. But to universal astonishment, an inept Wilson campaign collapsed almost before it



Reaching out: Bob Dole campaigning at a newsagents in Derry, New Hampshire

had begun, leaving behind a pile of debts and another heavyweight gubernatorial endorsement for - of course - Bob Dole.

Today his closest challenger is the millionaire publisher Malcolm "Steve" Forbes, a man unversed in politics who by common consent ultimately has no chance. Mr Forbes only declared his candidacy in the summer. But his fresh style and "politics of joy" message of low taxes and unshackled enterprise, hammered home by saturation TV advertising court-

tesy of the Forbes family fortune, has catapulted him into second place.

He may have no chance of catching Mr Dole. But in Iowa and New Hampshire, those traditional crucibles of presidential campaigns past, Mr Forbes has moved ahead of both Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Lamar Alexander, the former Governor of Tennessee, who were considered along with Mr Dole to make up the field's top tier.

Joyless, grating, and so far a specialist only at winning mean-

ingless straw polls, Mr Gramm is bogged down in a separate battle with Pat Buchanan, the one-time White House speechwriter and TV talk show commentator, for the loyalty of the social and economic right. Mr Alexander, meanwhile, comes across as uninspiring and cheery. In contrast to Richard Lugar of Indiana, the third senator still in the running, who is uninspiring and earnest.

The other two contenders, the former UN official Alan Keyes and the firebrand right-

wing Congressman Robert Dornan of California, will provide entertainment but little else until their inevitable withdrawal. Unless he can lift himself from the low single figures, Mr Lugar too faces a similar fate.

In truth, perhaps the only person who can defeat Bob Dole is Bob Dole. One old man's gaffe, one bout of ill-health, could turn the spotlight on his greatest potential weakness - his age. Conceivable, though less likely, is a fatal display of the celebrated Dole temper, remind-

ing voters that the "kinder, gentler" image he cultivates is but repackaging of the vicious-tongued politician of yesteryear. Most serious, however, is the lack of a message that proved the undoing of George Bush four years ago. Do Americans really want as their next President a septuagenarian legislative fixer, whose pitch to voters boils down to: "Trust me, I've been tested?" But at the start of 1996, as at the start of 1995, the Republican nomination to take on Bill Clinton is Bob Dole's to lose.

US gets tougher on illegal migrants

Washington — Responding to growing public pressure and the demands of the forthcoming re-election campaign, the Clinton administration is moving both at home and on the international front to clamp down on illegal immigration into the US, now reckoned to be running at 200,000 or more a year, writes Rupert Cornwell.

New Justice Department figures released yesterday show that the US deported 51,000 illegal aliens last year, up 15 per cent from 1994, and almost double the figure at the start of the decade. More than half were criminals ejected from the US after completing their sentences. The total of those turned back at US borders almost doubled in 1995, to 4,401.

Meanwhile, according to the *Washington Post* yesterday, an internal government report is urging the administration to insist on tougher world-wide measures against smuggling of illegal immigrants, many of whom have the US as their ultimate goal. The report notes that alongside the traditional illegal immigrant flows from Central America and the Far East, Europe too is emerging as a principal channel, following the collapse of authoritarian Communist regimes.

The stricter approach coincides with growing demands for curbs from Congress, where bills have been tabled aimed at reducing both illegal and legal immigrants.

The total illegal immigrant population here is now estimated at 4 million. Despite tougher controls, 200,000 people find a way into the US every year. Once inside the chances of being discovered are one in 100.

Stooges' heirs can cash in at last

Los Angeles (Reuters) — A bankruptcy court has confirmed that the heirs of the Three Stooges - Larry Fine, Joe "Curly" Joe DeRita and Moe Howard - own the rights to their work.

Judge Alan Abart's ruling ends years of litigation which held up lucrative film and merchandising deals. The Three Stooges, with a routine based on violent and vulgar slapstick, were a huge draw in vaudeville, television and films from the 1930s to 1960s. Re-runs remain popular television fare.

The original members were the brothers Moe and Shemp Howard and Finc. Shemp was replaced by his younger brother Jerome (Curly) and recalled in 1946 when Jerome had a stroke. He was replaced after his death in 1955 by Joe Besser, then by DeRita in 1959.

Their output included 200 shorts and films such as *Snow White* and *The Three Stooges* (1961). Fine died in 1974, Moe Howard in 1975 and DeRita in poverty in 1993.

Legal challenges began in July 1993, when Fine's grandchildren and DeRita's widow, represented by Bela Lugosi Jr, son of the horror-film actor, said the heirs of Moe Howard, who owned the rights to the characters, owed them more than \$5m in profits from merchandising and marketing deals.

A court last year ordered Howard's heirs to pay \$4.3m, of which \$1.6m was to go to Jean DeRita, and to hand over all rights to the characters to a company controlled by the heirs of all three. The Howard heirs, his daughter Joan Maurer and grandson Jeffrey Scott, subsequently declared bankruptcy and sought an appeal.

Mr Lugosi said a settlement had been reached allowing for a payment schedule and affirming the transfer to Comedy III Productions, which was talking with Columbia Pictures about a feature film and also considering other options such as an animated television series and a television special.



Comic turn: Joe, Moe and Larry Photograph: Ronald Grant

Arafat faces claims over liner hijack

Gaza (Reuters) — Yasser Arafat has been ordered by a US court to send written evidence in a civil suit brought by victims of the hijacking of the cruise liner *Achille Lauro* in 1985 or be held liable for damages.

Nahli Abu Radwan, an aide to the PLO leader, said the chairman had no comment on the move.

The ruling, issued by Judge Louis Stanton, said that Mr Arafat must comply with an order in March 1994 to give a deposition at the PLO office in Tunisia or other location by 15 January or be held liable for damages in the hijacking.

Mr Arafat has denied involvement in the hijacking, in which Palestinians commandeered the *Achille Lauro* off Port Said on 7 October 1985. A Jewish-American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was shot in the head and tossed overboard in his wheelchair. His body washed ashore in Syria.

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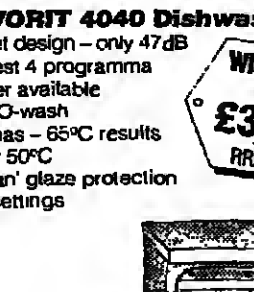


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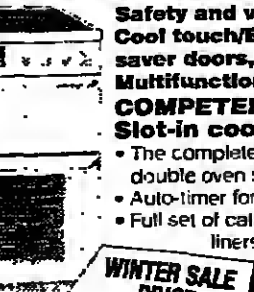
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obituaries / gazette

Professor James Meade

James Meade was one of the greatest economists of his generation. He, more than anyone since John Maynard Keynes, influenced the way in which economic policy is now discussed in Britain. He also made a direct impact on post-war policy when as a civil servant in the Second World War he wrote the first draft of the White Paper on Full Employment and the first outline of the Central Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Meade's aim was to fashion economics so that it could improve the human lot. He stood in the great tradition of utilitarian political economy running through John Stuart Mill, and his chief interest was the use of economics as a guide to policy. It is largely due to him that British economics has achieved its greatest international distinction in the field of "public economics".

Meade was an egalitarian, both in his ideas and in his life. He felt that economics should concern itself not only with the size of the cake but with how unequally the cake was distributed. For the sake of greater equality one should be willing to accept some loss of efficiency. Thus economic policy analysis required a framework in which any proposal (on trade, taxation, employment or whatever) could be evaluated by first describing its actual results and then assessing their impact on aggregate human welfare. Meade provided such a framework.

His first major field of study, for which he won the Nobel Prize in 1977, was the theory of international trade and customs unions. Meade was of course a free trader. But his volumes on international economic policy, published in the early 1950s, go far beyond that issue. In them he introduced the notion of the economic "second best": if there is an unavoidable distortion in an economy, economists should not just complain but should also say what is the "second-best" optimum, taking the unavoidable inefficiency into account.

From trade theory Meade turned to the distribution of income and wealth, writing the seminal treatise *Efficiency, Equality, and the Ownership of Property* (1964). This more than anything else restated the concern of British economists with inequality. Like many Englishmen educated in public schools (he himself went to Malvern College, before Oriel College, Oxford), Meade was very conscious of the wide differences between people, both in their genetic make-up (he was the treasurer of the Eugenic Society) and in the opportunities life offered them. He was worried that technical change would reduce the less able members of society to penury. The only so-

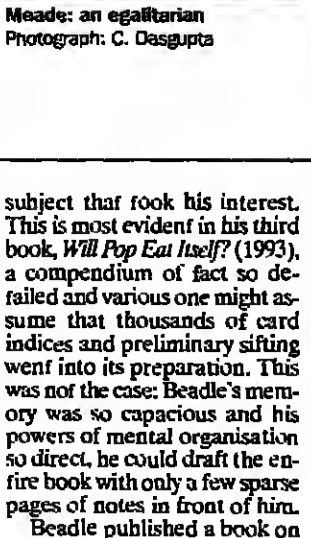
lution was an effective system to redistribute income.

In the 1970s Meade's chance came to examine this issue in detail. He was asked by the Institute for Fiscal Studies to chair a Committee on the Structure and Reform of Direct Taxation. The resulting report was a *tour de force* which has influenced all subsequent debate. It helped to propel the tax system towards the direction of taxing expenditure rather than income. And it clarified the debate on income maintenance, where Meade was increasingly attracted to the idea of a basic citizen's income.

As unemployment grew in the Seventies and Eighties Meade turned once more to that issue. As a young man he had chosen to study economics because he hated unemployment. In the war he had written the first draft of the White Paper which pledged the Government to pursue a high and stable level of employment. For 30 years they had done this successfully, but now unemployment was back, together with high inflation.

To Meade it was clear that demand management could not produce permanently lower unemployment. The role of demand management was to set the nominal magnitudes in the economy (and especially inflation), while it was the role of microeconomic policy and institutions to determine the level of employment. Once articulated by Meade, this increasingly became the orthodox view, repeated for example by Nigel Lawson in his 1984 Mait Lecture. In Meade's view the best aim for microeconomic policy is to stabilise the growth in total money spending. While this neo-Keynesian approach, as Meade called it, has never become official government policy, governments have come steadily nearer to pursuing it.

But, if Meade's macroeconomics became the orthodoxy, his remedies for unemployment did not. As Meade pointed out, unemployment occurs when wages are set above the level at which people are will-



Meade: an egalitarian. Photograph: C. Dasgupta

ing to supply labour. So in his book *Wage Fixing* (1982) Meade proposed that in wage disputes there should be compulsory arbitration with the arbitrator choosing that wage which would lead to the highest level of employment. Although he argued this case strongly, especially in the SDP which he belonged to, it received little support.

He then turned to a different approach, proposing that firms should become partnerships between labour and capital where each worker would receive a specified share of the firm's revenue. To make sure that outsiders were not excluded they could join with a lower initial claim than insiders. This became Meade's final vision of the good society.

In the post-war period Meade was above all a man of ideas. But before he had written the first draft of the White Paper he was an active Fabian and friend of Dalton and Gaiskill. In 1938 he went to work for the League of Nations, in which he believed deeply. From 1940 to 1947 he worked in the Economic Section of the Cabinet Office, and for the last two years was its director. While he was there he and Richard Stone first produced the national accounts as we know them. But his greatest achievement was probably to draft the British proposals for GATT, which led to the open system of multilateral trade and the post-war economic miracle.

That would be enough claim to fame, but Meade's greatest writing was to come. In 1947 he joined the London School of Economics, which he loved and where he probably did his best work. After 10 years he moved to Cambridge, where he completed his *Principles of Political Economy*, which were too taxonomic in character to be wholly successful. The political divisions in the Cambridge Faculty of Economics made him unhappy and he retired from his chair six years early. He continued writing up to his death, inspiring the young associates with whom he worked and respected throughout the profession. In October the Institute for Fiscal Studies organised a four-hour seminar to discuss his last book, *Full Employment Revisited*, published this year. It was completely natural that half the country's leading economists should have been there.

Meade was a much-loved man with extraordinary gentleness and modesty for someone with such a driving intellect. He was in every sense a gentleman. He was a beautiful singer, an excellent carpenter, and a great family man. He disliked pomp and characteristically refused the offer of a knighthood.

As an economist he represented the highest values. He

strove to improve the world by the use of reason, honest argument and accurate thought. On any assessment he was among the greatest Englishmen of the age.

Richard Layard

James Meade was unhappy with the Maastricht approach to monetary union, writes Martin Weale. He advocated instead a parallel currency, which would be set up with a guarantee that it would not inflate. EU members could then choose whether to use it, to peg their currencies to it or to float. A monetary union could evolve without any rigid timetable and, importantly, there would never be a point at which it could be said that the project had failed.

His concerns about the links between monetary and fiscal policy in a monetary union resurfaced in his most recent article (in the *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*) in the spring. How would one avoid unstable interactions generated by monetary and fiscal authorities competing with each other?

His students in the 1950s had seen this problem demonstrated clearly. He had supervised the construction of a hydraulic model of the economy by Bill Phillips at the LSE. This model allowed for separate adjustment of monetary and fiscal policy by different people. The result was often that they were soaked with water. Cambridge has just restored its Phillips machine and Meade will be among the first to use it. He took great pleasure in seeing it in working order in the engineering workshop last summer, but he was alas too unwell to attend its inauguration in the newly named Meade room two weeks ago.

James Edward Meade, political economist; born Swansea, Dorset 23 June 1907; Fellow, Hertford College, Oxford 1930-37; Bursar 1934-37; member, Economic Section of League of Nations, Geneva 1938-40; Economic Assistant, Economic Section, Cabinet Office 1940-45; Director 1946-47; CB 1947; Professor LSE 1947-57; FBA 1951; Professor of Political Economy, Cambridge University 1957-68; Fellow, Christ's College, Cambridge 1957-74; Nobel Prize for Economics (with Bertil Ohlin) 1977; books include *National Income and Expenditure* (with Richard Stone) 1944; *The Theory of International Economic Policy* (2 vols) 1951-53; *Efficiency, Equality, and the Ownership of Property* 1964; *Principles of Political Economy* (4 vols) 1965-76; *Wage Fixing* 1982; *Demand Management* (with David Vinson) 1983; married 1933 Margaret Wilson (one son, three daughters); died Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire 22 December 1995.

Jeremy J. Beadle

Jeremy J. Beadle was an outstanding example of a breed of cultural critic which has become more common over the last decade, able to cross the barrier between serious and popular culture. A polymath, he wrote on literature, classical music and popular culture, and his expertise extended from intricacies of the novels of Henry James to sport and television soaps.

Beadle could recall vast amounts of detail on almost any

subject that took his interest. This is most evident in his third book, *Will Pop Eat Itself?* (1993), a compendium of fact so detailed and various one might assume that thousands of card indices and preliminary sifting went into its preparation. This was not the case: Beadle's memory was so capacious and his powers of mental organisation so direct, he could draft the entire book with only a few sparse pages of notes in front of him. Beadle published a book on

each of his interests. There are two novels, both thrillers set in the seedy London underworld. His knowledge of popular music was encyclopaedic (he could tell you every no 1 hit for the last 35 years) and it enabled him to confront a subject like post-modernism in popular music in what has become the standard work on the subject, *Will Pop Eat Itself?*

His knowledge of classical music was equally great; as well as writing for *Classic CD* since

its inception, he wrote *The Virgin Guide to Classical Music* (1993), which covers the entire gamut of music history. His greatest love, however, was the music of the German symphonic tradition, and Wagner in particular, and this he wrote on in his book *The Age of Romanticism* (1995), and talked about frequently on Radio 3. His radio play *The Gates of the Underworld* (1990), also broadcast on Radio 3, was about the German writer and music critic

E.T.A. Hoffmann, whose themes of music, love and death fascinated Beadle. Jeremy John Beadle was born in York in 1956, and educated first at the cathedral choir school, and then at St Peter's, York. By the age of 18 he had written seven novels and a good deal of poetry, but he never-theless went to Oriel College, Oxford, to study Classics. This interest was to bear fruit later in a series of talks for Radio 3 on mythological subjects, but at

the time he found it frustrating, as his real love was English literature. Having changed to this subject he took a First Class degree, and followed it with an MPhil specialising in the novels of Anthony Powell. One of his last appearances on Radio 3 was to talk about the musical references in Powell's work.

After teaching at Oxford, Beadle moved to London to work first for the GLC and then for the Home Office, before setting out alone as a freelance

writer and broadcaster. He published six books and many hundreds of articles and was a frequent voice on Radio 3. He was also a wonderful conversationalist. He had been planning a new work, which would draw together the threads of all his interests, before his untimely death.

Anthony Sellers

Jeremy John Beadle, writer and broadcaster; born 28 April 1956; died 27 December 1995.

The baby in the manger is ours

Meanings of Christmas

Margaret Hebblethwaite, assistant editor of the *Tablet*, continues our series of Christmas reflections with a look at the family values that Jesus brought into the world.

And children, brothers and sisters" (Luke xiv.26). All in all, Jesus launched an attack on family values such as has rarely been seen in history.

Or did he? Jesus was shockingly disruptive of traditional family values. He ran away from his parents when he was as young as 12, provoking his long-suffering mother to exclaim: "Why have you treated us like this?" (Luke ii.48). He led Joanna - the wife of a respectable man with an important job - away from home (and children) to join him in his wandering life on the road (Luke viii.22). He said that he had come to "set a man against his father and a daughter against her mother" (Matthew x.35). He even said his followers had to "hate father and mother, wife

more accurately translated "Son of Humanity", or even "Child of Humanity". Translations have stayed with the traditional "Son of Man" merely because it is familiar.

The birth of a baby is a wonderful thing, and most wonderful of all, of course, for the parents. What we are told by Jesus's title, "Child of Humanity", is that at Christmas time we all become his parents. Because Jesus did not come from a traditional family - he was not the son of his mother's husband - he was able to become the Child of Humanity, with no one man, or race, or generation, or sex, taking priority in resemblance to him.

Christians are used to thinking of God as their father, and Jesus as their older brother. Some have begun to think of God as their mother, an analogy that Julian of Norwich explored in relation to Jesus. But the idea that we are Jesus's parents, so that God takes on the vulnerability of being our child, is unfamiliar. And yet this is the good news brought to the shepherds, "to you is born this day... a baby".

Christmas is the time when those who are parents and those who are not find themselves on equal footing. We all have a child born to us. We all have someone to love, who will love us. We all have someone in whom to invest our hopes. We all have a future.

And so it is perfectly appropriate that the family is remembered in a special way on Jesus's birthday, so long as the love learned at home stretches out to embrace all who have God as their father. Never were there more religious words for any Christmas carol than "Feed the world, let them know it's Christmastime".



Beadle: "Will pop eat itself?" Photograph: BBC

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

HENDERSON: peacefully on 24 December at Physiotherapy Hospital, John Campbell de Courcy, husband of Margaret, cremation at Torquay Crematorium on Monday 8 January 1996 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for Alzheimer's disease, c/o J. & G. Perrott, 15 Duncombe Street, Kingsbridge TQ7 1LR.

IN MEMORIAM

LANG-MIDDLETON: Slipped away and laid to rest December 1994. Still so sadly missed a fine mother, a good friend, and a gallant lady. We were privileged to know you, Elizabeth.

Announcements for Births, Marriages & Deaths (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Birthdays

June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, musical director and conductor, 82; Mr Andrew Bache, Ambassador to Romania, 86; Sir Richard Beaumont, former diplomat, 83; Lord Beaverbrook, former chairman, Beaverbrook Foundation, 44; Mr John Connell, former chairman, the Distillers Co, 71; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 67; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Northern Ireland, 60; Miss Marianne Faithfull, singer and actress, 49; General Sir Robert Ford, former Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 72; Professor Laurence Gower, former Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 82; Mr David Hall, former Chief Constable of Humberside, 65; Mr Roger Hart, Ambassador to Angola, 52; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 61; Mr Terry Lewis MP, 60; Miss Mary Tyler Moore, actress, 58; Mr Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 29; Mr Iain Paton, rugby player, 38; Mr Peter Robinson MP, 47; The Right Rev Mark Sauter, Bishop of Birmingham, 59; Sir Kenneth Sharp, chartered accountant, 69; Mr Harvey Smith, show-jumper, 57; Mr John Voight, actor, 57; Sir Edward Stratten Williams QC, former judge, 74.

Anniversaries

Birth: Jeanne-Antoinette, Marquise de Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, 1721; Louis-Jean Francois-Lagrange, painter, 1724; Charles Macintosh, chemist and inventor of waterproof clothing, 1766; Christian Jorgensen Thomson, archaeologist, 1788; Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanised rubber, 1800; Andrew Johnson, 17th US president, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, statesman, 1809; Alexander Parkes, chemist, inventor of a second method of vulcanising rubber, 1813; Karl

Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig, physiologist, 1816; Queen Elizabeth of Romania (Carmen Sylva, author), 1843; Pablo Casals, cellist, 1876; Jess Willard, heavyweight boxer, 1881; Vera Mary Britain, author, poet and feminist, 1895; King Emdin, Fuchs, Soviet spy, 1911; Robert Chester Ruark, author, 1915; Deaths: St Thomas a Becket, murdered 1170; Dr Thomas Sydenham, physician, 1689; Brook Taylor, mathematician, 1719; James Lewis David, painter, 1825; William Croft, composer, 1847; James Andrew, Marquis of Dohousie, Governor-General of India, 1860; Christina Georgina Rossetti, poet, 1894; Octave Feuillet, novelist and playwright, 1890; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1926; Donald Robert Perry Marquis, journalist and humorist, 1937; James Fletcher Henderson, jazzman and bandleader, 1952; Leo Robin, lyric-writer, 1984; The Earl of Slickton (Harold Macmillan), statesman, 1986. On this day: The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London, opened, 1730; Sarah Siddons, as Porthia, made her first appearance on the London stage, 1775; an insurance of troops in Moscow was put down after the death of Tsar Alexander I, 1825; Texas became the 28th of the United States, 1845; Britain's first ironclad warship, HMS Warrior, was launched, 1860; the massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, took place, when 200 Sioux Indians were killed, 1890; the James Earl Ray took place from Buchanaland into the Transvaal, 1895; Radio Luxemburg started operating, 1930; the City of London was the subject of a fire-bomb raid, 1940; Life magazine ceased publication, 1972; an Italian bulk-carrier, the *Marina di Egina*, sank in heavy seas off Land's End, with the loss of 30 lives, 1981. Today is the Feast Day of St Ebrulf or Ervulf, St Marcellus Aldemets, St Thomas of Canterbury and St Trophimus of Arles.

Institute of Physics

The Institute of Physics has made the following awards for outstanding contributions to the development, management and communication of physics:

Glanville Medal and Prize: Sir William Mitchell, Gifford Medal and Prize: Professor John Brian Pendry, Charles Vernon Boys Medal and Prize: Professor Sir Brian Proulx, David Medal and Prize: Margaret Johnson, David Medal and Prize: Dr Martin P. Smith, Warren Medal and Prize: Professor Francis Williams, Close Medal and Prize: Christopher Payne, Patterson Medal and Prize: Dr Michael Roy Worthing, Beaufort Medal and Prize: Professor David Vernon Ross.

Appointments

Mr David Tatham, to be British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Mr Doug McAdam, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (non-resident), in addition to Kazakhstan. Mr Nicholas Jarrold, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia. Mr Graham Boyce, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait. Mr William Fullerton, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.44pm. United Synagogue: 0171-387 4308. Federation of Synagogues: 0161-202 2353. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-508 1663. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-499 4721. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Family debt and high borrowing are here to stay, but we must find new ways to cushion the personal risks, says Yvette Cooper

How to make the never-never pay off

As January looms, that big post-Christmas question is about to be answered. Just how much did you manage to ratchet up on your credit cards this Christmas? There was the jumper for Dad on the Marks & Spencer account, the toys for the kids on Visa, and who knows what else still to be paid for in the new year.

This week saw the publication of another survey about consumer debt — this time by the consumer credit supplier Beneficial Bank which is launching a new advisory service to help us deal with our burgeoning debts. Apparently, one in four of us will be further in debt after the Christmas spending binge. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," says Bernie Woolford, marketing controller at Beneficial Bank. "Many more will go into debt 'accidentally' and could get a financial headache in the new year."

We are not just borrowing for Christmas. Britons are also in debt to banks, building societies, retailers, credit card companies, privatised utilities and loan sharks to the tune of £500bn. Borrowing has soared over the past 10 years. As the graph shows, the total amount of debt held by British families is actually higher than the amount we have to spend each year.

The question is whether we can sustain this level of borrowing in future. In the Eighties, heavy borrowing appeared to be an extremely astute thing to do. Property prices rose consistently faster than inflation, turning houses into a sensible investment as well as a place to live. Over 10 million households in Britain currently have mortgages compared to only 6 million 15 years ago. And the size of mortgages has risen too. In 1980, first-time buyers on average took out mortgages worth 167 per cent of their annual income. In 1991, their mortgages were on average worth 221 per cent of their annual income.

Mortgages account for more than three-quarters of personal borrowing. But consumer credit — which includes anything from credit cards to hire-purchase agreements, bank overdrafts to M&S cards — has also expanded

over the past 15 years. In 1979, approximately half of all households had credit commitments other than mortgages. By the beginning of the Nineties, that figure had grown to almost two-thirds.

But the "prudent investments" and "sensible borrowing" of the Eighties turned for many people into problem debts in the Nineties. Falling house prices have meant property is no longer such a good investment, and around a million people are stuck with negative equity. Sudden redundancies or cuts in salaries have left many people finding it hard to keep up with repayments on their mortgages and other debts. At the height

By increasing their borrowing in the Eighties, families were only doing what businesses have always done

of the recession, 1,500 properties were repossessed by mortgage lenders every week.

Even today, after several years of economic growth, the overall level of debt held by British families has hardly fallen. Despite evidence that many people made valiant efforts to pay off some of their debts in the past few years, there are more mortgage holders than ever, consumer credit has been rising all year, and there are still a lot of people with problem debts.

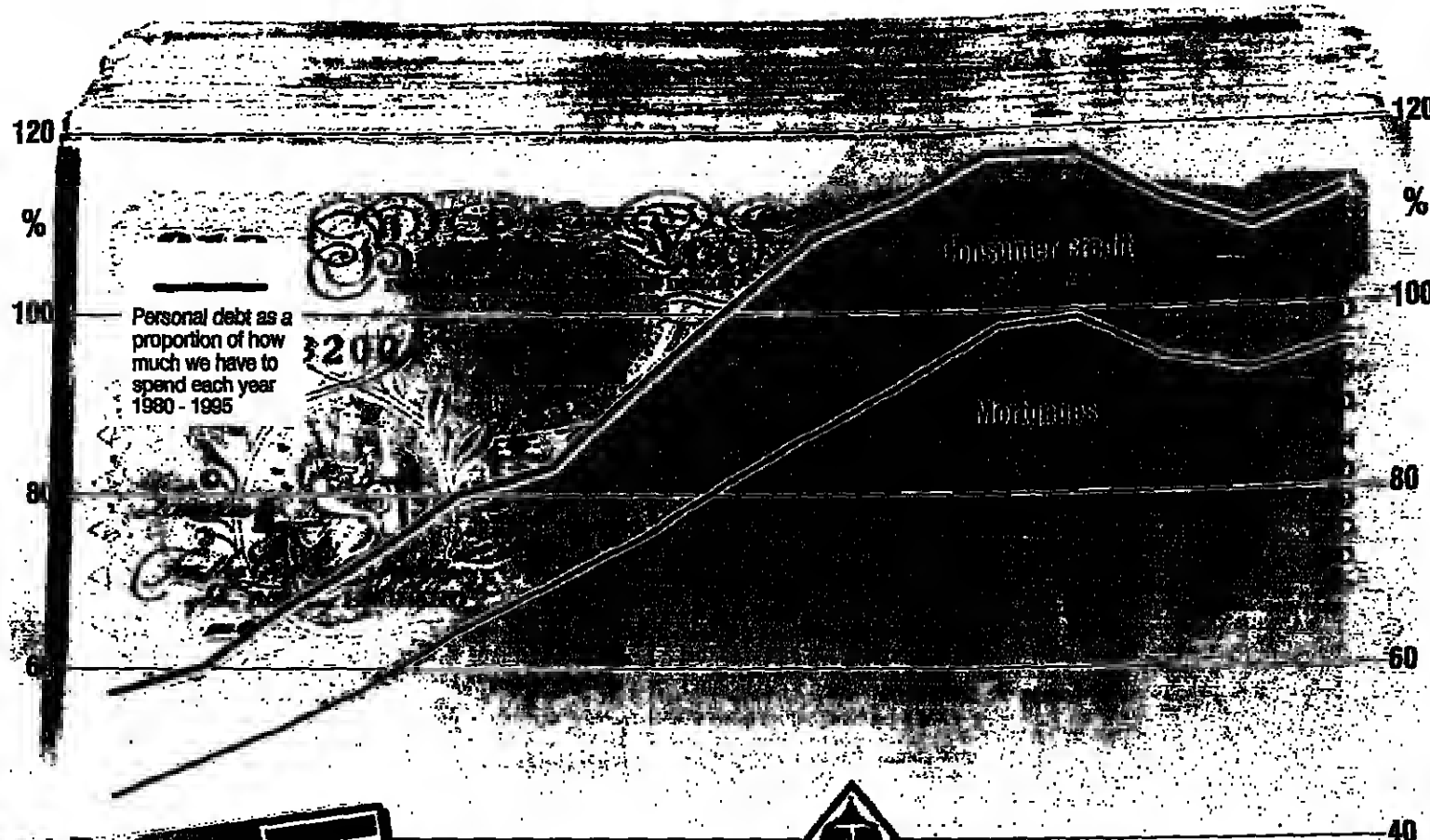
By June 1995, almost 200,000 households were more than six months in arrears with their mortgage repayments. And the Citizens Advice Bureau saw around 750,000 people with serious financial worries last year. A spokesperson for the NACAB said that "few of them are reckless, feckless debtors". Many are living on a meagre income and simply cannot keep up with the bills for rent, heating or the Council Tax. Poverty, rather than over-borrowing in the Eighties,

is at the heart of their problems. But for others, sudden unforeseen changes in their financial circumstances — perhaps redundancy, illness or divorce — has left them unable to keep up with their previous debts.

Borrowing patterns may change gradually in future — at least where house buying is concerned. A recent report by Elaine Kempson and Janet Ford at the Policy Studies Institute shows that young people in particular are more reluctant to take out mortgages: "More people perceive there to be a risk attached to borrowing large sums of money, especially as a number of first-time buyers more than halved between 1988 and 1992, although it has started to rise slightly since then. The chances are it will be a long time before so many are prepared to stake so much on housing again."

Consumer credit on the other hand has bounced back with far more enthusiasm. Despite the debts that remain, people seem ready to start borrowing again. Lloyds Bank points out that while in 1994 many of their customers took out loans simply to consolidate their debts, by 1995 they were borrowing for a purpose — perhaps to buy a new car. A spokesman said: "In 1995 there has been more of a feel-good factor. People are definitely borrowing more."

It looks as though there is little chance of a return to the low-debt early Eighties. Even if people could pay back their debts in a hurry, the chances are that many of us would not want to. As Goldman Sachs economist Gwyn Davies and David Walton pointed out in a 1992 report, high personal borrowing across the economy as a whole could be completely rational. Although families increased the amount they borrowed in the Eighties, the value of their assets grew too. So while we may not be earning enough to pay off our bills in a hurry, we own houses or other assets that are worth far more than our debts. In fact, total personal borrowing is only 17 per cent of personal assets. By increasing their borrowing



Consumer credit

27 million credit cards were issued in the UK in 1994
£36 billion was spent on credit cards in 1994
There were 803 million credit card transactions in 1994
£1,137 is spent every second with a credit card
40 per cent of adults hold a credit card
12 per cent of retail expenditure is made with a credit card

20% of consumer credit is borrowed on credit cards

59% is borrowed in bank loans

15% is borrowed in loans from finance houses and insurance companies

5% is borrowed on store cards



Mortgages

There are 10.5 million mortgage-holders in Britain
Approximately 920,000 mortgages were approved in 1995
25,200 homes were repossessed in the first six months of 1995
By June 1995:
115,000 people were 6-12 months in arrears with their mortgage repayments
95,000 people were over 12 months in arrears with their mortgage repayments
Average mortgage taken out by first-time buyers: £41,000
Average monthly repayment for first-time buyers in October 1995: £210 pcm
Average mortgage taken out by former owner-occupiers: £55,000
Average price of houses bought in September 1995: £70,000

Graphic: JIM PAULDIS, MARK HAYMAN

during the Eighties, families were simply doing what businesses have always done: increasing their borrowing in line with their assets in part to invest in the future.

The problem is that while heavy borrowing might make sense across the economy as a whole, for individual families it can be a very risky venture indeed. It can be impossible to liquidise your assets fast enough to pay off your debts — especially if the housing market isn't moving. And the house may no longer be worth enough to cover the borrowing. Interest rates could go up and send

the cost of repayments through the roof. And for those facing job insecurity, there is no guarantee they will earn enough to keep up the repayments from month to month.

So how can we reconcile the need for high credit with the growing risk of default? Firstly, people need to be aware of the real risks of the borrowing they take on. Government incentives to enter the housing market such as "right-to-buy" or mortgage interest relief encouraged many people to take on risks they were not able to bear. Perhaps instead government should encourage greater prudence

by insisting that people have to save a certain amount before taking out a mortgage.

Another option might be to look at compulsory insurance against unemployment or default on mortgage payments. Currently, around 1.5 million of the 10.5 million people with mortgages have private insurance. As the welfare state increasingly withdraws from insuring people against bad times, more and more people will want to take out insurance themselves.

And for those who find themselves suddenly out of their financial depth we need constructive ways of dealing with their debts. Financial institutions have already started to develop a more constructive and sympathetic approach towards their debtors than the stark tactics and compounded charges of yesterday.

The Consumer Credit Counselling Service was set up in 1992, funded by creditors, to provide debt advice and debt management plans. Richard Sheras, managing director of the CCCS says, "I think that credit companies, banks and building societies are realising that it's probably in everyone's interests to try and help people to sort out their

debts, although it's not necessarily true of all creditors."

High borrowing is here to stay. And there are new calls on personal credit too: investing in education. Most students already leave university with some kind of debt, as higher education expands they may need to pay towards their fees as well. In a world where most people need to borrow at some point in their lives we need to find new ways to help people avoid unacceptable risks, and the misery of personal bankruptcy. Or credit counsellors and debt managers look set for a busy future.

Sarajevo Diary

EMMA DALY



They said it could not, would not work. But the Western politicians who refused for so long to send any real armies into Bosnia should visit Sarajevo to see how wrong they were. The city has changed radically with the arrival of (F-16, Nato's peace implementation force. Its limits have dissolved (at least for foreigners) and its front-line neighbourhoods exposed to the light of semi-normal life.

We have begun to venture to places off-limits to all but front-line troops or the suicidal — Vrbanka bridge, where the bodies of Sarajevo's Romeo and Juliet (Serb boy, Muslim girl) lay for days, guarded in death by the sniper fire that killed them. Or the outskirts of Dohrinja, where the enemies were separated only by a road.

But best of all for those of us infuriated, harassed, robbed and turned back on countless occasions, F-16 has bulldozed the checkpoints in and around the city. It is wonderful to behold the foreign expressions of our tormentors, the checkpoint guards who stand helplessly to one side as cars sail by. Even the Bosnian truck drivers who needed a UN escort to drive through the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza are breezing through — though they lurk behind the lines until they spot an F-16 vehicle passing, then nip in behind.

Most locals — even those carrying UN press cards — are still too frightened to use the roads. It is likely to be some time before they are willing, as urged by the Nato commander in Bosnia, Lt-Gen Sir Michael Walker, to develop a "spirit of adventure" and drive through enemy territory.

And now the cloud of fear has settled across the front line, where rebel Serbs who lost the battle to divide Sarajevo are waiting, miserable and confused, for guidance should they stay, and risk mortal revenge or perhaps just the poverty of a second-class existence, or go to the unknown, to the life of a refugee? The Bosnian government, which will take control of Serb-held areas next year, has called on Serbs to stay and offered lukewarm assurance of safety to all but "war criminals" — though how the average man is to calculate whether his wartime actions were criminal or

not is left unanswered. The tables have turned.

The city is gradually awakening to the possibility of peace and the freedom to move past the ring of steel that encircled it for so long. It is glorious to see lights across the valley at night instead of blackness, to see bars and cafes and streets filled with people strolling easily instead of lurking at sniper corners waiting for the moment to dash across.

Still, there are those wartime problems to resolve first: my friend Aida, for example, is wondering how

to rid her car of the odour of morgue in summer before her five-year-old son and mother return from exile in Germany. A man wounded in October died in her car as he was being evacuated and she cannot wash out the blood.

"I'm trying to make a home for Igor, but more than that, I'm trying to justify staying here to my mother. She has to be impressed when she gets here and the smell of a dead man in my car is not going to help." It may sound callous, but after four years filled with such scenes of horror, Aida herself was not much bothered by the smell.

She is also clearing her flat, moving out the refugees. "There was a 15-year-old boy shot in the head by a sniper," Aida recalled. "The bullet went straight in his forehead, through his brain and lodged at the back. We thought he would die. But after 10 days in hospital he said his first sentence, 'I want tea', and his mother faints. So the family came to stay for six months. Function after function came back — the last was sight. I came in one day with a banana and a Coca-Cola for him, which was something extraordinary then, and he had never seen me, because I did not know the family before he was wounded. He opened his eyes and said: 'Oh, you must be Aida, you have glasses.' And there was a crash from the kitchen — his mother had fainted again."

A photo from summer 1992 shows Aida wearing pink dungarees and a white T-shirt, a camouflaged flak jacket over her shoulders, a helmet in one hand and an anxious expression. She is unrecognisable as the sassy, no-nonsense reporter I know. She used to come to work in high heels

and tight skirts — "until I broke all my heels in trenches and was reduced to sneakers".

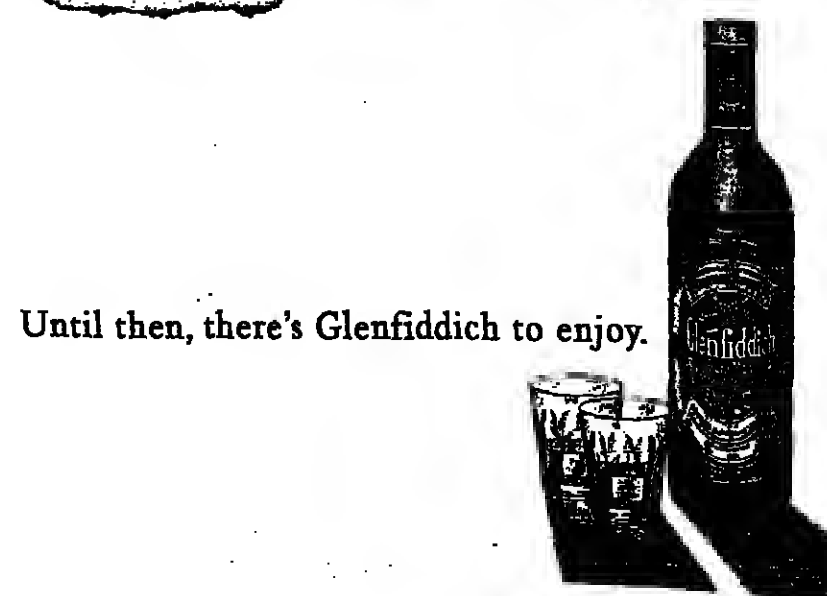
Like most Sarajevans, she was convinced the war was a temporary aberration. "I thought this would only last two or three weeks because the Americans would come in — can you imagine?" She shrieked with laughter. "1992 — how stupid I was. But, hey, it turned out the way I said — just four years later." She paused. "It's funny now, but then I just cried."

The Americans have indeed landed. Residents were bemused to see that US troops leaving their base to walk up the road for Christmas lunch adopted combat positions — but with the memory of the Beirut suicide bombing, security is taken seriously. Troops offered reprieve the chance of three-day patrols with the soldiers, a practice gloriously known as "embedded media". Sadly for reporters with a sense of adventure, the patrols were limited to... the air base.

Sarajevans are examining the past and pondering how to rebuild the future: some are coming home, trying to stitch together marriages broken by years of war and exile, to reconcile the needs of parents and children who have changed so since the spring of 1992. There is at last a sense of hope, a growing belief that the war really is over, that life can go on — and with it, the prospect of celebs descending upon the city.

"The only one we couldn't put off was the Archbishop of Canterbury," muttered one Nato official crossly. He dropped in last week, though Prince Charles, the Pope, Bill Clinton and Bob Dole all agreed to postpone until Nato had settled in.

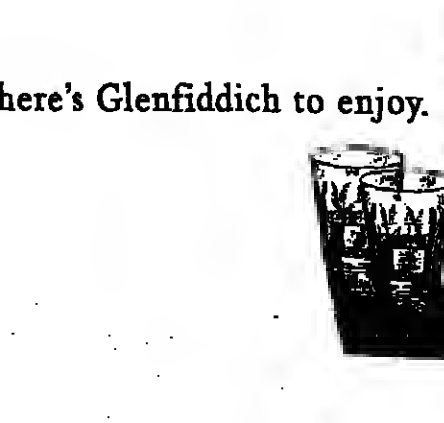
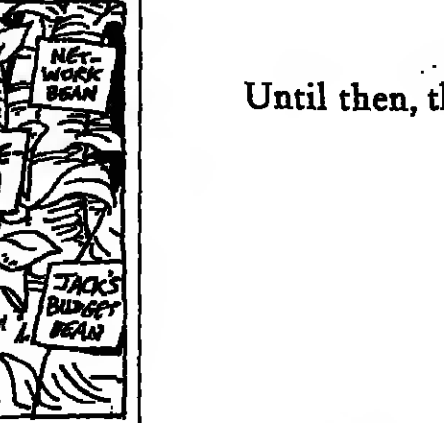
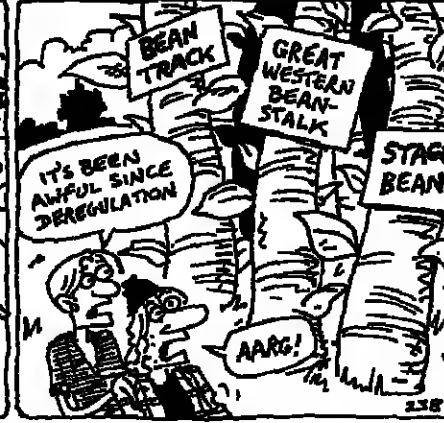
Jamaicans admire British sense of rhythm



Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.

Generation Why

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way



INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

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Justice from the barrel of a gun

There is supposed to be a paramilitary ceasefire in Northern Ireland. Yet the killing rate is approaching the level it reached during the quieter periods of the Troubles. Four men have been murdered this month. The latest victim, Martin McCrory, was shot dead on Wednesday night. The IRA seems to be responsible.

In short, the cessation of political violence no longer means a total ban on killings by the IRA, just as it never entailed an end to punishment beatings. The IRA is sending out a clear message: it will not withdraw away.

That is the uncompromising message to George Mitchell, the US Senator appointed by Bill Clinton to head an international body looking into what to do about Northern Ireland's stockpiles of illegal weapons. It is probably no coincidence that the shootings began just as Senator Mitchell took up his post.

The IRA has an additional motive for these killings: to retain control over neighbourhoods from which it draws the core of its support. It has singled out the scourge of the community – drug dealers and criminals – for crude justice. Few local people will grieve for them. And there are not many brave enough to argue with an organisation that executes a small-time criminal such as Mr McCrory in front of his three-year-old son.

All of this is terribly depressing. These vigilante killings make it politically even harder for the Government to relax its insistence that at least some weapons should be decommissioned before Sinn Féin can join constitutional talks. So the danger of another stalemate in the peace process looms large.

The shootings should also dispel belief that the IRA will somehow melt away, its weapons left to rust like the guns of previous rebellions. It aims to remain a disciplined, vicious organisation, unwilling to forfeit its domination of certain communities.

There is, however, some hope. Sixteen months after the ceasefire, the IRA is still faithful to the cessation of political violence. There is no immediate sign that it is prepared to breach that aspect of the ceasefire. The popularity of general peace across Northern Ireland is such that few republicans want a return to 25 years of terrorism.

The only chance for challenging vigilantism and the shadow that the IRA still casts over Northern Ireland requires a long-term strategy, building on the political peace. It demands the creation of a settlement that is genuinely inclusive, claiming the allegiance of all communities, including Sinn Féin. Only such a state can, for example, produce a police force that the nationalist ghettos will back against the IRA. In time, the police should aim to be so supported by the population that, like their counterparts in the south of Ireland after the Civil War in the Twenties, they feel able to disarm themselves.

The Government, keen to keep the peace process alive, seems to be overlooking this month's killings. London, unlike Dublin, has not pointed the finger of blame at the IRA. But this month's killings should bring home to John Major the urgency of seeking a new constitutional agreement. He must press ahead with all-party talks, even if that means circumventing his precondition that arms should first be decommissioned. The present peace, secured without a political settlement – leading to vigilante law and a still strong IRA – is no long-term solution in a liberal democratic age.

A hundred years of fantasy

28 December 1895 was a cold day in Paris. Only a few people paused to take flyers from the man standing on the boulevard des Capucines. Fewer still – 33, to be exact – entered the Grand Café at number 14 and paid one franc to see the *Lumière Cinématograph*. Together they constituted the first ever cinema audience, witnesses to the birth of probably the most important and influential medium of entertainment and cultural communication ever devised.

One of the reasons for the success of the cinema is, paradoxically, its simplicity. Most of the camera techniques and moves that grace modern film are essentially the same as those pioneered in the early silent days. But what the camera allows, which theatre cannot, is a closeness to its subjects and their emotions and a manipulation of images to achieve a desired result. The outcome is a shared intimacy. And when the story being told is a good one, audiences can share an immediate and powerful experience: they can laugh, cry and experience terror together.

Little wonder that cinema has been colonised by dictators and fought over by politicians. Russian Communists understood its potential in helping to shape the "new Soviet man" and the Nazis in mobilising anti-Semitic feeling. Even in the democracies, film has often been seen as too important to be left to the filmmakers. Thus it was the "fellow-travelling" Hollywood of the early Fifties

which became the prime target of Senator McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee. Today battle still rages about the extent to which film can carry messages that provoke antisocial behaviour.

Far more positive is the way that cinema has constructed a common experience for a world audience. Tales of its heroes and heroines have become a lingua franca and people from many countries can swap lists of their favourite stars: the impressively handsome men and the ravishingly beautiful women. And it is a collective activity, usually involving sitting down with a couple of hundred complete strangers to see something for the first time.

The death of cinema has been predicted annually. It was said that television would kill it off – and indeed audiences plummeted, reaching a low in 1984. Then the home computer became the projected nemesis, followed by satellite television. Finally, Hollywood's cultural imperialism was set to deal the death blow. It hasn't happened. Film has enjoyed a renaissance, and in the past few months – with audiences roughly double what they were a decade ago – MGM and Warner Brothers have both announced extraordinary plans for major new cinema complexes in British city centres.

Why? Probably because, even in the most atomised of societies, we human beings feel the need to share our fantasies and our excitement.



Forecasters predict no let-up in global warming

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two answers to the West Lothian question

From Mr Simon Partridge

Sir: According to your leader "Tartan terrors of Mr Blair" (27 December), Tony Blair plans a new commission to think up answers to the "West Lothian question", which the creation of a Scottish parliament engenders.

It is doubtful that such a commission will find a convincing answer to the question, because the creation of separate national parliaments within the British state flies in the face of its historical evolution.

The British constitution may not be written, but that does not prevent it leaving an internal logic that is based on it being a unified parliamentary system of government. The process started not with the Act of Union with Scotland in 1707, but with that with Wales in 1536. The British state expanded originally from the English-Welsh core until it absorbed the Irish parliament in 1800. The repercussions of the secession of the Irish Free State from the UK in 1922, as the fragile ceasefire in Northern Ireland demonstrates, have still not been worked through.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats, through their plans for assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, seek to reverse this historical process of increasing integration. A closer look at the Irish precedent may be in order. None of the major goals of Irish nationalism have been achieved: the restoration of Gaelic, the absorption of Ulster

or the preservation of a rural and Catholic culture. Indeed, so many have decided to emigrate from the Republic that there are now more people of Irish extraction living in Britain than in Ireland.

There is an alternative to the current proposals for national devolution: it is radical devolution to revitalised local government, formed from the coherent urban-regions in which the great majority of us now live (including in Ireland). Not only does this not raise insoluble contradictions for our long parliamentary tradition, but it also happens to be in tune with the coming world in which the global and the local will have far greater salience. In short, it would renew the British nation in a truly modern idiom – something that should appeal to Mr Blair.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PARTRIDGE
London, N2
28 December

From Ms Mary Southcott

Sir: Labour's commission to examine the "West Lothian Question" ("Labour may cut number of Scots MPs", 26 December) will be welcomed as proof positive that, despite repeated Conservative accusations of breaking up the UK, Labour, in opposition or in power, realises that power is better exercised and decisions taken close to the people whose lives they affect.

Decentralising the state is important but so is reflecting diversity at every level. That is why Labour is supporting not only a Scottish Parliament but also a voting system that gives representation broadly in line with votes cast.

It is hoped that when examining the number of Scottish MPs, the commission will take evidence on the way they are elected. Any future Labour government, reliant on Scottish or Welsh MPs for its Westminster majority, will be reluctant to leave only English MPs to take parallel decisions for England that in Wales and Scotland will be taken by their assembly and parliament.

With more Labour votes in Kent, which at present has 16 Conservative MPs, than in Glasgow with 11 Labour MPs, the commission will need to examine the way our current thinking is determined by first-past-the-post, which reinforces the representation of the biggest minority party in any area.

Voting systems paint different pictures. Labour's voting referendum gives a chance for the British people to come up with the only long-term answer to the West Lothian Question – electoral reform for Westminster. Yours sincerely,
MARY SOUTHCOTT
Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform
Bristol
26 December

Wrong model for UK prisons

From Professor Justin Brooks

Sir: For the past two months I have been in the UK researching the correctional system. I have visited many correctional facilities and have spent many hours speaking to correctional administrators. As a result of my research, I am convinced that the British correctional system is headed in the wrong direction.

Although I am proud to be an American, I am not proud of the US correctional system. Policies formulated at the whim of politicians, focused only on security and punishment – and not rehabilitation – have created the most unsuccessful correctional system in the world. The US incarcerates more of its citizens per capita than any other country and has the highest recidivism rate: there is very little correction occurring in the correctional system.

Even though the US provides clear examples of failed punitive correctional policies, there seems to be a desire in the UK to model these policies. Over the past decade, the US has attempted to build its way out of its correctional crisis while alleged tough-on-crime policies have filled every new available cell. Instead of allocating resources so that inmates will not recidivate, resources have been allocated to make sure there will be a cell for them when they return. I see the British correctional system moving in the same direction, because I have consistently heard over the past two

months about the prison service cutting back programmes that will keep prisoners from coming back to prison, while allocating large amounts of money to security and new prisons.

Locking inmates up without proper treatment, educational programmes, vocational training, support for their families, and concern for their transition back into the community is clearly the quickest route to a violent crime-ridden society, and an outrageously expensive correctional system. One need not be altruistic to believe that offering inmates opportunities is a good idea. It is much cheaper to pay for inmate programmes than it is to pay for a population of individuals who spend their lives shuffling in and out of the criminal justice system, while the taxpayers are probably also supporting their families.

I believe that the British correctional system can turn itself around before it becomes as failed as the US system. I have met many excellent civil and progressive administrators who, given the resources, clearly have the ability. It is time now to formulate policies from the top that allow the operation of true "correctional" facilities, not just prisons.

Yours sincerely,
JUSTIN BROOKS
Sheffield, Yorkshire
20 December
The writer is an associate professor at the Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

In the very bleak midwinter

From Dr Brian D. Giles

Sir: When did the Government change the cold weather requirement? You report ("Cold comfort" payments row boils over", 28 December) social security minister Andrew Mitchell as saying, "These payments are meant to deal with very severe weather."

The original legislation was for "severe weather" and was based on a once-in-six (winters) criteria. "Very" has not been defined, and could be any large number the minister cares to think of – once in 20 or 40 or 100 winters.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN D. GILES
Birmingham
28 December
The writer is a climatologist.

Labour's ignorant prince of darkness

From Lord Russell

Sir: I'm beginning to wonder whether Peter Mandelson's title, "Prince of Darkness", is an example of what historians call "the inflation of honour". The views attributed to him ("Mandelson denies right-wing agenda", 27 December) show an ignorance of Liberal Democrat policy that would be severely penalised in an A-level candidate. For example, the idea of allying with the Liberal Democrats while attacking local education authorities is not in the real world.

If Mr Mandelson wants to know about the Liberal Democrats, he should not rely on his co-author Roger Liddle who, well before he left it, had become a semi-detached member of our party. He should read Paddy Ashdown's conference speech. He would find there not only the famous penny, without which all improvement in education is impossible; he would find also a commitment to oppose Tory tax cuts (on which we have delivered), a commitment to restore Railtrack to the public sector from whatever limbo it may have reached, and a commitment to control the growing "Frankenstein", which is the British executive, by a programme of restoring power to the people (which our predecessors of 1832 summed up as "election not nomination").

These ideas have considerable appeal to Labour members and voters. Do they have any appeal to their leaders? Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat
House of Lords
London, SW1
27 December

Common sense and monetary union

From Mr J. M. Mackay

Sir: I was most interested to read Hamish McRae's article (22 December) about the impracticalities of monetary union, but I think even more fundamental is the question of parliamentary control thereof. Politics is very largely about the economy and taxation, which vitally concern the currency. I cannot imagine that we would ever accept the decisions of a hostile European parliamentary majority against our interest in such matters.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MACKAY
Bournemouth, Hampshire
21 December

Sharp practice

From Ms Catherine Moody

Sir: Your headline "Straw urges action on knife adverts" (23 December) prompts the reflection that if manufacturers of kitchen equipment would stop making kitchen knives with a point, much less damage might be done.

To enhance a macho image in chefs, both male and female, is about all a pointed kitchen knife can do. A blunt-ended knife is better for spreading, an oblique end acts as a turner and a convex blade is wanted to cut up butter in a bowl for making pastry.

In the hand of the excited or violent, a stab can mean death. A round-ended kitchen knife, on the other hand, refuses to be such an efficient accessory. Why not design a knife that is handy for cooking and not for death? It would also be safer while you dash about the kitchen, just cooking. Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE MOODY
Malvern, Worcestershire

Communists get streetwise

From Mr N. I. Barnes

Sir: Not long ago, new street-name signs were put up on the Nevsky Prospect in St Petersburg. They bear three lines of text: the first reads "Nevsky Prospect" in Russian letters, the second the same in Latin letters, the third line reads, also in Latin letters, "Coca-Cola".

Communist successes in the recent elections ("Red flag is raised over Russia again", 19 December) should not surprise. Yours faithfully,
N. I. BARNES
London, NW8
26 December

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail address: letters@independent.co.uk). Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Q: 1995? A: Delia Smith and Mr Darcy

The end of the year approaches and it is time to find out just how aware you were of what happened during the past tumultuous 12 months. So here for you to mull over during the weekend is our Grand Quiz of 1995!

1. Who, in 1995, said the following?
a. "I am making you Deputy Premier, Michael, but I want it to be strictly understood that it is a purely nominal and symbolic post."

b. "That's all, right, John. After all, I realise that being Prime Minister is, in your case, also a purely nominal and symbolic post."
c. "You might very well think that, Michael, but don't forget that I resigned as party leader and stood for election to show that I was the best man."

d. "Not quite, John. All you showed was that you were a better man than John Redwood, and I think we all knew that already – all except John Redwood, of course."
e. "No cheek from you, Michael, or I won't make you Deputy Premier."
f. "See if I care, John."

2. Which became the most maddening cliché of the year?
a. "You may think that, I couldn't possibly comment."

b. "Blur?" Isn't he the leader of the Labour Party?
3. When Yitzhak Rabin was murdered



MILES KINGSTON

this autumn, it was the first time in history that a leader of a country with a first name beginning with Y was assassinated by a man who also had a first name beginning with Y.

True or false?
4. Delia Smith's name or photo was on the front cover of *Radio Times*

a. Three weeks in a row?
b. Five weeks in a row?
c. Every issue this year?
d. And quite often on the back cover as well?

5. A science question, now. Which breakthrough took place this year?
a. Geneticists finally managed to breed a tomato that tasted of something.

b. Medical science finally isolated the virus that causes road rage.
c. Science has finally isolated the gene that governs people's desire to appear on *The Moral Maze*.
d. The White House finally located

Bosnia on the map.
6. Whose partnership finally broke up in 1995?

a. Paula Yates and Peter Cook.
b. FW de Klerk and Dudley Moore.
c. Nelson Mandela and Winnie Mandela.

d. John Redwood and Michael Jackson.
e. John Lennon and the Beatles.
f. Pearl and Dean.
g. Torvill and Dean.
h. Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

7. Which of the following were celebrated in 1995?

a. VE Day.
b. VJ Day.
c. VAT Day.
d. VJ Day.
e. VJ Day.
f. VJ Day.
g. VJ Day.
h. Sir Robin Day.

8. To which chemist will nobody ever again take their bath-time photographs?
9. Sport, now. Jonathan Edwards, triple jump world record holder and winner of the British Sports Personality of the Year title, is actually the illegitimate son of Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, the British ski jumper who was so bad that he won the title 15 years ago.

True or false?
10. What is the product known as Britpop?

a. A new kind of sparkling wine.
b. An old kind of pop music.
c. The noise made by Britweasel.
d. A misprint for Britpop.

11. Whatever happened to a. Terry Christian?
b. David Mellor?
c. Janet Street-Porter?
d. all the money collected by the Thatcher Foundation?

12. Which was the most famous speech in 1995?
a. The one in which Princess Diana said she wanted to be Queen of Hearts, thus losing all the support she had so carefully gained.
b. The one in which Will Carting referred to the people who ran Buckingham Palace as "a load of old farts".

c. The one in which Bill Clinton told the world that he had finally located Bosnia on the map.
d. The one in which John Major told us that the peace process was on course, but didn't tell us where it was on course to.

e. The one in which Mr Darcy finally proposed to Miss Bennett.

Answers on Monday, or maybe more questions, if we can't think of any answers...

comment

In fear of living dangerously

We have become a society of strangers, in which trouble lurks around every corner



HELEN WILKINSON

Just when it looked as if everything was shaping up for a perfect White Christmas, brutal reality barged back in with the reports on radio and television of the disappearance of 19-year-old Celine Figard, last seen being picked up by a lorry driver at a motorway service station a few days before Christmas, as she hitched her way to spend the holidays with her cousin. As every day goes by, the fears for her grow and the police were worried enough to raise the status of their inquiry to a murder investigation, so turning her smiling face into a symbol of youthful trust betrayed by a dangerous society.

Already, many are drawing what they take to be the obvious moral. You can't trust anyone. Strangers are dangerous and only a fool would choose to hitch, deliberately laying themselves open to psychopaths and weirdos. This is a predictable response and an understandable one. We have a culture that extols the virtues of free-

Any kind of chance encounter with people in cars can seem like the ultimate danger

dom and choice, yet we seem to find them inherently destabilising. Rising mobility and the accompanying erosion of communities and neighbourhoods seem to have ushered in a society of strangers. Greater freedom has been accompanied by rising crime, especially violent crime, which heightens insecurity, fuels paranoia and creates a crisis of trust. People are becoming ever more concerned about personal safety and have become obsessed with eliminating risks.

We seem to yearn for controlled environments: whether shopping in malls such as Lakeside in Thurrock or Meadowhall in Sheffield, which have closed-circuit television cameras, stable temperatures and no rain; on holiday in places such as Centre Parcs and Disneyland, where leisure is organised within clearly defined parameters; or on package holidays, where there's always someone in charge (and someone to complain to). Risks to our bodies are eliminated, for example, by not eating beef because of a million-to-one chance that we might contract CJD, and those who like to live dangerously do so through organised activities like bungee jumping which look hazardous but are, in fact, almost wholly safe.

In this context, any kind of chance encounter with people in cars can seem like the ultimate danger. It's certainly provided good material for popular culture, with films like *The Hitcher* and



Butterfly Kiss playing on the dangers of the road, as well as cleverly inverting the power relationship between hitcher and driver by making the hitcher the murderer. Public anxiety about hitching has also been raised by real life events. In the macabre tale of Cromwell Street, the fact that Frederick West hunted his victims by drawing the streets at night, finding damsels in distress and offering them a lift and a bed for the night, was a stark reminder of the horrors that await if you accept lifts from strangers. What makes matters worse is that West's story seemed to disprove the commonly accepted rules for minimising risk. The women who accepted lifts from Frederick West were not stepping into a car late at night with a lone man; more often than not, Rosemary West was present, able to reassure the victims that they would be safe precisely because she was a woman.

Over the airwaves, in print, on celluloid and on television, there is a consistent message: the world has become such a dangerous place that we dare not risk chance encounters. Everyone is a potential psychopath, every lorry driver a potential Peter Sutcliffe. Predictably, another bad hitching episode now means that in pubs and on talk shows around the country people are lining up to call for an out and out ban on hitching. Others are calling on hitchers to stop hitching, and on drivers to "just say no". The message to drivers seems to be that you've got to be cruel to be kind; better to drive past a rain-soaked woman standing by the roadside than pick her up because that



will send the message that it's not worth trying to hitch in the first place. Doubtless many parents who fear for their own children's safety will feel that this is only common sense. Yet the moral that is being drawn is surely wrong. This is partly a matter of proportion and partly a matter of the impossibility of avoiding strangers. The number of hitchers who are seriously hurt remains minuscule and while many have less than pleasant experiences, particularly if they are single women, that's true of many other things we do in life, such as walking down a street late at night, driving a car on lonely stretches of road or stepping into a car with a person purport-



ing to be interested in buying a house, as the estate agent Suzy Lamplugh did. True, we can try to insure against the risks. We can do self-defence classes, we can try to avoid walking home at night or we can splash out on a mobile phone for the car. We can follow the advice of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust – the charity set up after her disappearance to educate other women on personal safety – which has significantly concentrated its efforts on arming and equipping women with safety techniques to minimise risks, not on prescribing yet further limits on women's freedom. Yet, however much we do all of this there will always be some of us who, because of money, or because we

have been caught off our guard, will still run into dangers.

Moreover, while we can try to avoid the possibility of chance encounters, we can never truly eliminate the risk of them – even in the most controlled environments. It's worth remembering that Jamie Bulger was led to his death from a video-monitored shopping centre and that the technology may have helped to catch his attackers, but it did not save his life. And while we invest thousands in burglar alarms to secure our homes, we still don't feel entirely safe from random attacks.

But the more serious flaw in the arguments of those who want to screen away all risks is that even if we could buy our way to safety we would be so aware of all the dangers that life wouldn't be much fun anyway. We would be alive but psychically dead, victims of our own anxieties and our own self-created prisons. Moreover, an organised, predictable world – one without risks and without chance encounters – would be a very boring one. So those of us who actually welcome the benefits of greater freedom – the opportunity to travel, to meet people from all walks of life and to be more mobile than we have ever been – should be prepared to embrace some risks while also learning to be careful and streetwise. Indeed, a degree of risk-taking is one of the ways in which young adults learn the survival techniques they will need throughout their lives. And in the final analysis, how many of us at any age would really be happy in a society where everything was controlled and predictable?

Jack of all trades – and all classes

Goodbye Tracy and Wayne, says Ruth Picardie. Today's parents have other aspirations for their kids

It's one of the most important decisions you'll ever make. You muse idly on the subject for years, argue bitterly for nine months, agonise for weeks. Hundreds are rejected. A handful make the shortlist. Then, at last, you and your partner agree – on a name for your new baby.

It's also probably the highest statement you'll ever make about who you are and where you're going.

So, Gabriel is rejected as too biblical, Nathaniel too American, Raphael too effeminate. But how about Jack? A solid, unpretentious name belonging to a cute, sturdy boy and a good, strong kind man – Jack the Giant Killer.

When he grows up, he'll be sexy and alluring and just the right side of rock'n'roll, like Jack Nicholson, or the firstborn of beautiful people such as Gabriel Byrne and Ellen Barkin.

Sadly, your son Jack will be in a class of Jacks. According to figures just released by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Jack was the most popular boys' name in 1995. It is closely followed by Daniel, Thomas (last year's number one), James, Joshua and Matthew.

The top girls' names, meanwhile, are Jessica, Lauren, Rebecca (last year's number one), Sophie and Charlotte.

This is shocking stuff, not just for the parents of baby Jack. For where are the Sharons and Tracys who once inhabited every Essex joke?

Where, too, are the soap wannabes and aspirant stars? The only starry name to make the top 100 is Jodie (46), as in Foster – a conspicuously brainy film star who went to Yale. These days, the rich and famous have all been Oprah Winfrey, exposed as sexual abusers, alcoholic, bulimic, too screwed up to emulate.

What the new top 50 says about the values, fears and aspirations of mid-Nineties Britain is, first, not that we live in John Major's classless society, but that today nobody wants to be working class. Girls will still smoke in the toilets and get pregnant in their teens, but at least they'll have an exotic name like Jade (number 19).

Mid-Nineties Britons want their daughters to be frilly and ultra-feminine, demure and rather posh – Jessica and Sophie and Charlotte – and definitely not strong, achieving types (Margaret does not make the list).

Actually, they would quite like their daughters to be Victorian – an era when parents really did stick to a proper class of names. They can cite the parlour maids – Amy (7) and Molly (47) – or demure little girls such as Alice (18) and Grace (41).

Cutting-edge parents call their daughters Ellie (straight in at 40) and Abbie (new at 44 – morsugar and spice, from the days when little girls wore long hair and dresses and were seen and not heard. Feminism? Forget it. The original version of these little girls didn't even get the vote.

Where are the Sharons who once inhabited every Essex joke?

The other new girls' entry is Kayleigh, which sounds suspiciously like Kylie but is in fact one of those faux-Celtic names that have ripped through the boys' chart like the wind up a kite.

Racing up the charts are Liam (up five places to number 12) joining Connor (17), Calum (23), Kieran (26) and Sean (44). Cameron (new in at 48) and Reece (another new entry at 48) – and this has nothing to do with Scottish and Northern Irish fertility rates, since the chart only applies to England and Wales.

While England has become grey place led by a grey man (though John does appear a number 39, and Tony is nowhere), the nation's parents hope for wild, macho, independent, beater-scratched sons who doubtless will want to have nothing to do with their frilly Victorian daughters.

Silly, aren't we? Perhaps that's why, this year, hoping for a New Man and a feminist, named my baby son Joe – a solid Biblical carpenter type – and my daughter Lola – a floozy straight out of a Kink song.

A region with a bad reputation

The West can only achieve peace in Bosnia if it changes its policies in the Balkans, says Jonathan Eyal

The first stage in the disengagement of troops around the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo has begun as promised. Although pitfalls abound, hopes are rising that Nato will ultimately meet its primary objective of pacifying the republic of Bosnia. Yet stability in the entire Balkan region requires more than just a military operation in one former Yugoslav state. It needs a long-term commitment that combines economic assistance with political engagement and a great deal of patience, an effort that no Western government is currently prepared to consider. For, as the success of Islamic parties in this week's Turkish parliamentary elections indicates, the West may find itself dousing the flames of one Balkan conflict only to be confronted with many another regional crisis.

As the clash point between three former empires, the Balkans seemed almost destined to symbolise trouble. Constantly shifting borders and people as well as unspeakable cruelty have all given the region its bad name. "Balkanisation", the perpetual disintegration of states into smaller entities, is now more famous as a concept than the individual countries the region encompasses. The recent Yugoslav war has rekindled all these historic fears. In most of Europe the Balkans are now regarded as a zone of perpetual instability, a region best left outside the Continent's co-operation structures. Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics and Hungary are considered as serious candidates for membership in both the European Union and Nato. But at the EU summit in Madrid last week, the case of Romania, Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey were met with ominous silence. Yet the West's assumption that the Balkan states should solve their problems before, rather than after, joining European institutions has little chance of success.

Much of Europe's reticence about the area is misconceived: the view that the Balkans represent a disease rather than merely a geographic entity is based on a fundamental misreading of history. While it is true that the region has had more than its fair share of violence, it is also a fact that much of this was engineered by competing alliances hatched in the West, rather than just local animosities.

Nor is it true that the Balkans are still torn by "tribal warfare" today: former Yugoslavia is a unique case of a multi-ethnic state that failed. In no other Balkan country do ethnic minori-



Pro-Kurdish rallies are just one sign of increasing fragmentation in Turkish politics. AFP

ties represent more than 10 per cent of the population and none of the minority disputes in the region can be solved by changing frontiers. "Balkanisation" is a Western nightmare, based on a fatal misunderstanding of the past rather than an Eastern reality.

Finally, the region has displayed a genuine desire to forget its turbulent history: refusing to engage in any regional disputes, Bulgaria and Romania have become friendly with both Greece and Turkey, precisely what the rest of Europe did not expect them to do. And the best co-operation between Romania and Hungary is on the military level, exactly what nobody in Europe imagined. Yet all the Balkan countries suspect that, however hard they try, the West is ultimately interested merely in ignoring them.

Albania has heeded Western demands to keep out of the Yugoslav war. The Western response is to advocate that Serbia retains control over the ethnically Albanian region of Kosovo, while granting the local population "autonomy", a meaningless compromise in which nobody believes.

for a few months. It does not matter that Jordan originally supported Saddam Hussein. Iraq's dictator, while Turkey was an ally of the West, the Americans needed Jordanian co-operation in the conclusion of a peace settlement with Israel, while Turkey's friendship was simply taken for granted.

To make matters worse, the end of Communism brought stability to Central Europe but not to the Continent's peripheries. One after another, the former Soviet republics of central Asia, such as Azerbaijan, populated by nations ethnically related to the Turks, have been forced back under Russian influence, with the West not only ignoring these developments but actually preparing to allow Russia to maintain more troops on Turkey's frontiers than the limits laid down under international agreements that Moscow agreed a few years ago. But, far from seeking to reassure Turkey about its own security, the West criticised the Turkish government for its breaches of human rights and imposed visa requirements on Turkish passport holders. The result was the rise this week of an Islamic fundamentalist party which capitalised on this frustration with the West by promising Turkey's withdrawal from Nato.

On paper, the West has all the mechanisms for engaging in the region: a new free trade accord will enter into force with Turkey this January, while Bulgaria and Romania have co-operation accords with both the EU and Nato. But the difficulty is that all these promises carry increasingly diminishing conviction, given the West's record in the region over the past few years.

For centuries, the West has laboured under the mistaken notion that it was able to choose just how much or, usually, how little, it should become involved in the Balkans. If this effort is accompanied by co-operation and real promises of integration to the other neighbouring states, Nato's Bosnia adventure will be a success. But if the West persists in its concentration on Bosnia alone, it will quickly discover that the Balkans are good at hurrying the best of intentions. The task today is no longer just keeping Bosnia at peace but pacifying an entire region.

The writer is director of studies in the Royal United Services Institute in London.

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This as a temporary measure." The excess shareholdings were the result of the takeovers by Carlton and the merger of LWT and Central respectively, which took the two acquiring companies from 18 per cent to 36 per cent of ITN. Several ITV companies - including Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, Anglia, Meridian and HTV - expressed an unwillingness to be bullied or balked at the asking price.

Privately, Granada and Carlton were both upset at a campaign by some ITV companies to encourage a second news provider to be designated by the ITC. Under the rules, only one news provider is allowed to offer services to the Channel 3 companies. Currently, ITN supplies all ITV news, including its flagship *News At 10*, featuring Britain's most-watched news:

...ply news for about £30m a year, far less than the current ITN contract, which is worth £40m a year.

The Carlton spokesman said: "It is our intention to correct the situation quickly, adding that we "note the ITC's concern."

The ITC, however, remained dissatisfied with the result, and called on the Government to "avoidance of the provisions of the Bill in the new Broadcasting Bill, due to be debated in the next session of Parliament."

The regulator also seeks greater discretion in defining the acceptability of ownership structures in a number of situations, such as bids for licences. A variety of innovative, but perfectly legal, ownership structures were put in place by bidders for the recently award-

business

Japan bounces but may still not be on the ball



COMMENT

'One explanation for the revival in recent weeks lies in the first green shoots of economic recovery, confirmed by an unexpectedly high rise in industrial output for November'

Is it different this time round or is what we are witnessing merely that traditional Japanese annual event – an unsustainable stock market bounce? For those who missed it, the Nikkei struggled through the 30,000 mark earlier this week, as it has done at some stage every year since 1992 – cold comfort for the former Barings trader Nick Leeson who back in February gambled the Nikkei would be above 19,500 at the end of the year. Unfortunately for him, it collapsed back down to 14,485 before the present recovery set in. Though the rise in the Tokyo market since its mid-year low point looks spectacular – nearly 50 per cent – this is nothing unusual by Japanese standards. Volatility comes with the territory in a market where the average dividend yield is less than 1 per cent. One explanation for the revival in recent weeks lies in the first green shoots of economic recovery, confirmed by an unexpectedly high rise in industrial output for November. Government efforts to nurture growth seem finally to be bearing fruit. A second factor behind the unfolding confidence in equities has been the growing willingness of the Japanese authorities to own up to the extent of the banking crisis. The Bank of Japan has put a figure on estimated bad debts, closed down some no-hope financial institutions and set out plans for tougher monitoring of Japanese banks in future. Investors feel they now more or less know the scope of the problem and the nature of the solutions.

Underpinning all this are high liquidity levels – lots of cash chasing any investment prepared to pay more than a token return. Domestic investors figure interest rates can go no lower, leaving little scope for Japanese bond prices to rise. They are therefore allocating more to shares. Overseas investors too are increasingly confident both that the Nikkei has more scope to rise than key alternative markets – such as Wall Street – and that there is little danger of an adverse movement in the yen. The effect could be to push the Nikkei well above 20,000 before the new year is very old.

Whether such a bounce can be justified by the fundamentals – prospects for Japan – is another matter. It will be public sector pump-priming rather than private sector demand that drives the economy in 1996. Corporate earnings should improve, but not by a lot. Japan's transition, moreover, from a spectacularly high growth tiger-type economy to a disappointingly sclerotic one in need of very substantial structural change makes the present still-heavy valuations enjoyed by Japanese shares relative to their Western counterparts look increasingly unsustainable.

Markets rarely behave entirely rationally so it will take time for this underlying anomaly to correct itself. The stock market in Japan is in any case such an integral part of the financial and industrial system that the sort of correction implied by the relative valuation analysis would mean ruin for

investors and bankers alike. There is therefore a powerful in-built resistance to any sustained further long-term fall in the market. The logic is nonetheless irresistible: the gap between Japanese and American valuations must progressively close.

Amstrad remains a one-man band

Amstrad always was a one-man band, and so long as Alan Sugar, chairman, is on this earth, always will be one. Yesterday's adverse stock market reaction to the abrupt departure of the chief executive, David Rogers, was therefore a curious one. If you invest in Amstrad, you are investing in Alan Sugar, not his lieutenant.

Nonetheless, the City plainly believed things might have changed. Three years of careful bridge-building with the City following Mr Sugar's ill-starred attempt to take the computers to telephone group private in 1992 have been undone. The removal of Mr Rogers removes the key stone in this edifice. As a former senior executive of Philips, he gave credibility to Mr Sugar's attempts to turn Amstrad from an entrepreneurial freeform into a serious international electronics group.

Plainly his ideas of rebuilding the core consumer business did not accord with those of Mr Sugar, who wants further to prune the business, eliminate loss-makers

and cut costs to match reduced sales. Mr Sugar's instincts may be correct. After all, it was his gut feelings for what the consumer wanted which made Amstrad the remarkable success story it was in the mid-1980s. Now he wants to take Amstrad off in new directions, stripping out the old activities and concentrating on new businesses such as the Danacell mobile telephone maker and Viglen, a maker of computers that sells direct to its customers.

While Amstrad works out its management problems, shareholders can rest reasonably assured the company's £140m of cash and ownership of strongly-performing Viglen provide a floor of around 170p under the share price. Don't expect a business run on conventional lines, however. This is one of those stocks where the man is bigger than the company.

Supermarkets alight on electricity

When Marks & Spencer went into financial services, the banking and insurance world trembled at the thought of its potential market power. In the event, it did not turn out that way and the financial giants are fighting each other rather than the retailers. Chain stores and supermarkets can nonetheless still cause serious disruption when they enter new markets, as Tesco and others are demonstrating in petrol retailing.

The latest industry to come within their sights is electricity supply.

In theory, any reputable company will be able to buy power from the electricity trading pool from 1998 and sell it to domestic customers through their existing meters. The regional electricity company distribution networks will become common carriers, open to any licensed supplier to use.

The mechanics of the move towards open competition are the responsibility of the electricity industry. Since no businessman in his right mind will go out of his way to encourage competition, it has been dragging its feet. Last summer it was criticised in a report by the Commons trade and industry committee for poor preparation for 1998. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator has given the industry a kick and brought in consultants to steer the plans through. Initial responses are not encouraging.

There is to be a centralised clearing system to handle the billing of electricity supplied from the trading pool to the various competing companies, but this has already provoked a row. Some regional electricity companies believe the £30m cost estimate is double what is required and are drawing up alternative plans. Since wholesale power prices vary through the day, this would be a complex project to get right at the best of times. But in this case there is a conflict of interest. The smoother the new arrangements work, the more quickly existing suppliers lose out to newcomers. Mmmm.

Barings tops league with £20bn deals

JOHN WILLCOCK
Financial Correspondent

Barings Brothers has topped the UK mergers and acquisitions league table for 1995 with deals totalling nearly £20bn, despite its February derivatives disaster and subsequent rescue by the Dutch bank ING.

The corporate finance arm of ING Barings, Barings Brothers, handled 26 public and private deals worth £19.48bn according to the *Acquisitions Monthly* magazine.

By far the biggest part of this came from one mega-deal, when Barings advised Wellcome, working with Morgan Stanley, early this year in its £9.1bn takeover by Glaxo. The bank also had a hand in the second-biggest, Lloyds Bank's £5.9bn takeover of TSB Group,

in which it advised Lloyds. The year was also notable for seeing last year's champion, Warburg, falling to third place. Warburg first tried to merge with Morgan Stanley, failed, and was then in effect swallowed by rival Swiss Banking Corporation to become SBC Warburg.

Four American banks benefited from the problems besetting several of their UK competitors and made big gains in the table. JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley sprang from outside the top 20 to fifth and seventh place, respectively. Mark Burch, a director of corporate finance at Barings, said the result was "very good news. It's been a very busy and a very good year."

Mr Burch said that the weeks following the discovery of over £800m in derivatives trading

UK Mergers & Acquisitions

League table 1995

Adviser	Number of deals	Total value (£m)
Barings Brothers (4)	26	19,477
Lazard Brothers (9)	30	14,683
SBC Warburg (1)	48	13,821
NM Rothschild (11)	42	12,067
JP Morgan (-)	7	11,940
Schroders (2)	30	11,931
Morgan Stanley (-)	9	11,083
Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (6)	46	8,348
Kleinwort Benson (7)	25	8,192
Goldman Sachs (3)	13	6,835

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*

losses in Singapore in February had been "a very tough period". Many corporate clients had thought about their relationship with Barings, he said. "ING moved very quickly. They them-

selves have grown through mergers, and they had no prescribed formula for change. We also had a high level of cohesion in the group. "There were no departures.

We agreed to stick together, and this year has proved that [was the right thing to do]."

Such was the wealth of M&A activity in 1995 that Barings had to hire extra people. The UK corporate finance team grew by 7 to 67, including 17 directors and 40 executives.

Such a boom year has fuelled talk of bumper bonuses. Mr Burch said that "clearly it has been a very good year and so compensation is likely to reflect that". Barings' bonuses are decided in February and paid in March, he said.

Utility bids have helped to boost figures for the year generally. Barings advised on one of the few hostile utilities bids so far. Along with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell it acted for Scottish Power in its £1.1bn takeover of Manweb, the re-

gional electricity company based in Chester.

There were 14 public bids over £1bn announced during 1995, compared with only one in 1994. This also beats the 1989 record when there were 11 such deals. The number of public bids completed in 1995 rose to 84, worth a combined £36.47bn, compared with 62 in 1994 totalling £5.09bn.

Second is Lazard Brothers with 30 deals totalling nearly £15bn. As well as advising Glaxo, the bank is working on two large pending deals – advising Forie as well as National & Provincial in its proposed £1.3bn takeover by Abbey National.

Analysis expect 1996 will be another good year, possibly as good as 1995.

Thomson and Cook strike 11th-hour deal

RUSSELL HOTTEN

A big dispute between two of the best known names in the travel industry, Thomson and Thomas Cook, has been settled in time for the traditional new year boom in holiday sales.

Thomson, the tour operator, and Thomas Cook, the travel agency, had stopped doing business with each other over commissions and discounts. Thomson was thought to have demanded that Thomas Cook accept lower commission rates on its holidays of about 10 per cent, but be allowed to offer higher discounts to customers of around 12 per cent.

Thomson said it could not cover its costs under such an arrangement, and the dispute was threatening to spill over into the courts. Thomson disconnected Thomas Cook from its holiday booking system, while the travel agent removed the tour operator's brochures from its network of 385 shops.

Neither side was yesterday revealing the terms of the settlement. But it is believed that Thomson has agreed to pay higher commissions while Thomas Cook will discount holidays by only 10 per cent.

Brochures for next year's holiday were being rushed to Thomas Cook shops yesterday. The dispute threatened to financially hurt Thomas Cook, which has a 13 per cent share of the overseas holiday tours sold in the UK. At least one in 10 of Thomas Cook's customers books a Thomson holiday.

The industry has been hit hard this year due to its own over-optimistic forecasts about how many people would holiday abroad this summer.

Last week Thomas Cook announced discounts of up to 15 per cent on package tours a day after Lunn Poly revealed a pay-by-installment plan.

The days over Christmas and New Year are the busiest of the year for holiday bookings, and no travel company can afford to miss such a lucrative period of business.

The deal, agreed late on Tuesday after both sides' lawyers worked over Christmas, provides enough flexibility for Thomson to offer bigger discounts if the key selling season does not go well.

A Thomas Cook spokeswoman said: "We are now selling Thomson holidays. We have reached an agreement that is mutually acceptable."

At Thomson, which sells one in three of the 10 million overseas package holidays bought in Britain, a spokeswoman confirmed an agreement had been reached but declined to comment further.

The dispute threatened to financially hurt Thomas Cook, which has a 13 per cent share of the overseas holiday tours sold in the UK. At least one in 10 of Thomas Cook's customers books a Thomson holiday.

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Wave of strikes heralds more French gloom

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

The recent wave of strikes and unrest has taken business confidence in France to its lowest for nearly two years.

The balance of firms reporting increased output compared with those saying production was down fell to minus 9 per cent in December, down from minus 6 per cent the previous month. It was the lowest balance since January 1994, according to an official survey published yesterday.

The survey showed that levels of finished stocks rose for the fourth month in a row, reflecting the economy's slowdown.

The national statistics office, Insee, reported that optimism about future output had plunged even more dramatically. The balance expecting to raise rather than reduce pro-

duction dived from minus 21 to minus 36 per cent. The gloomiest sectors were the car and transport industries and manufacturers of semi-finished goods, although food and consumer goods manufacturers have also become more pessimistic.

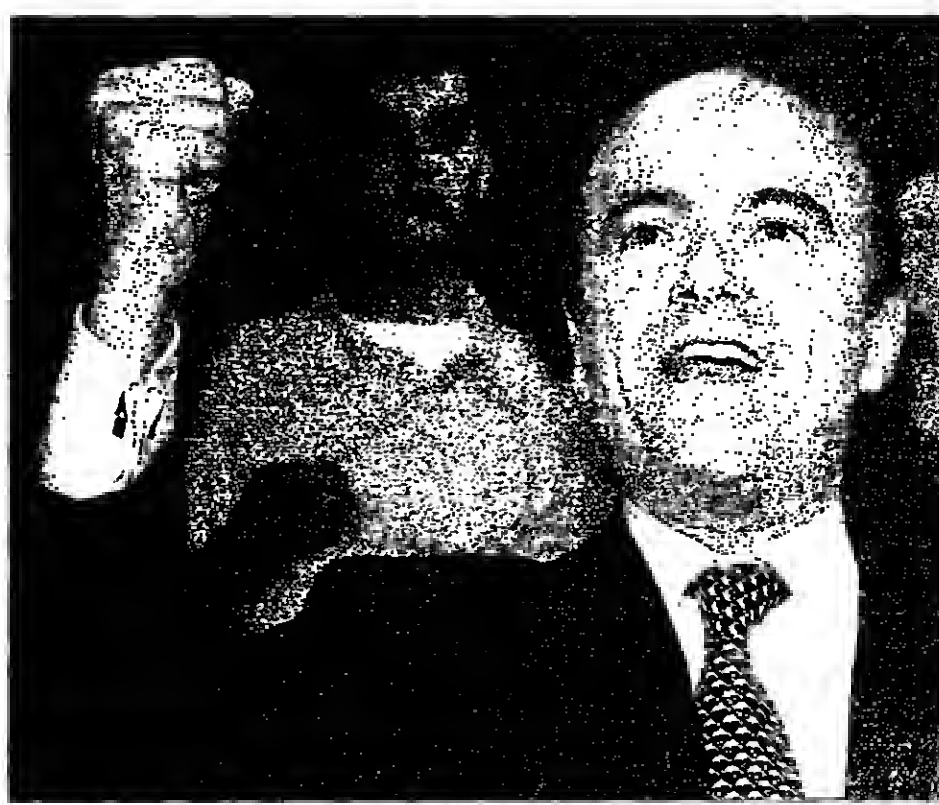
Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, yesterday tried to put an optimistic gloss on the outlook for the French economy by saying that he thought it would meet the conditions for taking part in European monetary union from its start in 1999.

Mr Tietmeyer said he could not envisage a monetary union without France. It was one of the "core countries of European integration," he told a German newspaper. The Bundesbank President said France had the "will and ability" to meet the conditions set out by the Maas-

tricht Treaty. However, recent figures make Prime Minister Alain Juppé's chances of reducing the government deficit to below 3 per cent of GDP look slim. Growth is slowing sharply, while deficit-cutting plans are under threat after the wave of strikes.

The latest French industrial production figures showed a 1.9 per cent fall in October, following an almost equally sharp drop the previous month. Year-on-year output growth turned negative for the first time since the end of 1993.

Despite the depressing survey results, there was a slight recovery in share prices in Paris after a technical disruption in the morning. The stockmarket was reacting to Wednesday's announcement by the French Government of new details of measures intended to stimulate consumer spending.



Prime Minister Juppé: slim chance of meeting Maastricht targets

Photograph: AP

Virgin TV promises court drama

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Virgin TV promises fireworks at the High Court next month, when the controversial Channel 5 licence award is to be put to judicial review.

According to a Virgin TV insider, "you will be very surprised by what you learn" at the three-day hearing, scheduled to begin on 17 January.

Virgin TV declined to comment officially on its case. But speculation centres on correspondence between the Independent Television Commission and Channel 5 Broadcasting, which could show whether the ITC allowed the winning bidder

to raise by £100m the amount it had set aside to cover the costs of launching the channel.

Virgin TV, whose application was rejected on the grounds of quality, won the right to seek judicial review last month, claiming there had been procedural unfairness. The High Court ruled that the consortium had an arguable case.

Specifically, Virgin TV, made up of Richard Branson's Virgin Group and Paramount Television, said that Channel 5 Broadcasting had been given an opportunity to alter its bid after the 2 May deadline. Other bidders, Virgin TV claimed, were not provided an opportunity to make changes.

Channel 5 Broadcasting, backed by Pearson, M&A, CLC, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, and Warburg Pincus, has said it merely clarified the amount set aside to cover the worst-case scenario of £300m.

To date, most industry observers have assumed that Virgin TV would fall in its bid to overturn the award. The ITC has never lost a judicial review. However, any suggestion of procedural unfairness could lead to a reconsideration of the licence award. Of the possible scenarios in the event of a court judgment in Virgin TV's favour, a re-bid is believed to be most likely.

Four bidders applied for the

licence last Spring. UKTV, backed by Canadian broadcaster CanWest and SelectTV, the independent television producer, bid £30m, the highest, but was disqualified on quality grounds. Its attempt earlier this month to win the right to judicial review failed, although it was given leave to submit information during the Virgin TV court case next month.

Virgin TV and Channel 5 Broadcasting controversially bid an identical £22,002,000, while low-bidder New Century, back by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, Granada and others, offered £2m. New Century's petition for judicial review, filed two weeks ago, was also rejected.

Airbus shares \$3bn Philippine order

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Airbus, the four-nation aircraft consortium that includes British Aerospace, has won the lion's share of a \$3bn (£2bn) order from Philippine Airlines.

The order for 32 aircraft is shared with Boeing, which last month scooped a \$12m contract from Singapore Airlines.

The Philippine order goes some way to ease the deep disappointment of losing the Singapore business and comes at the end of a difficult year in which Airbus lost several im-

portant tenders. Boeing is currently favourite to win the bulk of a huge order to be announced soon from Malaysian Airlines.

Philippine Airlines is buying eight Boeing 747-400s, and 24 aircraft from Airbus: four A340 four-engine long-range types, eight twin-engine A330s and 12 of the A320 mid-range aircraft.

An A340 is worth about \$120m, an A330 some \$110m, and the A320 about \$50m. A Boeing 747-400 sells for about \$150m. Civil aviation is emerging from recession, with the Far

East market growing fastest, but large orders are scarce and closely fought. Yesterday's announcement was a blow to America's McDonnell Douglas, which desperately needs orders for its MD-80 aircraft.

The Philippine order is for delivery over the next three years, and will provide much-needed work for the Airbus consortium, which is made up of France's Aerospatiale, Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace, CASA of Spain and British Aerospace. Aerospatiale and Daimler-Benz own 38

per cent each, BAE has 20 per cent and CASA four per cent.

Airbus and Boeing are fighting it out for an order from Malaysian Airlines, which is expected to make an announcement on a 10th ringgit (£2.5bn) purchase in early January.

Newspapers in Malaysia have reported that Boeing will clinch more than half the order for 25 new long- and medium-range aircraft, with Airbus the remainder. McDonnell Douglas was said to be out of the running.

INDEPENDENT Special Reports Diary 1996

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MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES									
Bank	Value	Bank	Value	Bank	Value	Bank	Value	Bank	Value
Barclays	6,200 Bt	Barclays	6,200 Bt	Barclays	6,200 Bt	Barclays	6,200 Bt	Barclays	6,200 Bt
National Grid	1,000 Bt	National Grid	1,000 Bt	National Grid	1,000 Bt	National Grid	1,000 Bt	National Grid	1,000 Bt
London	7,500 Bt	London	7,500 Bt	London	7,500 Bt	London	7,500 Bt	London	7,500 Bt
Trinity	7,000 Bt	Trinity	7,000 Bt	Trinity	7,000 Bt	Trinity	7,000 Bt	Trinity	7,000 Bt
BT	7,000 Bt	BT	7,000 Bt	BT	7,000 Bt	BT	7,000 Bt	BT	7,000 Bt
FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR									
Open 3671.2 down 5.2 11.00 3678.9 up 2.5 14.00 3679.1 up 2.7									
09.00 3671.3 down 3.4 12.00 3685.7 up 9.3 15.00 3678.3 up 1.9									
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Waitrose	111	Waitrose	111	Waitrose	111	Waitrose	111	Waitrose	111
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SPIRITS, WINES & CIGARS									
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SUPPORT SERVICES									
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RIGHTS ISSUES									
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RECENT ISSUES									
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sport

FACES FOR '96: Three men in different sports at different stages of their career have the same problem of living up to the past

Phillips sets lips smacking

Ask a Crystal Palace supporter about the heavy weight of prediction and he will probably burst into tears. The "Team of the 1980s" was Malcolm Allison's prophesy but somehow Liverpool overshadowed them. And Everton. And Arsenal. Even their tenants, Wimbledon. Suffice to say they fell short of the mark.

Imagine, then, the cross that Martin Phillips has to bear, never mind provide. Alan Ball, his manager at Exeter and now at Manchester City, once said he would become England's first £10m player—and has the tag stuck? Is Maine Road perpetually in a state of crisis?

Just a glance in *The Pink*, Manchester's Saturday sports paper, shows it has clung like an agent to his commission. "£10m kid misses out", "£10m treasure buried" are just two examples. Phillips, Buster as he is nicknamed, has a huge expectation on his shoulders even before his debut.

In fairness to Ball, who probably wishes now he had kept quiet, he backed his judgement by buying the 19-year-old winger in November in a structured deal that will cost City less than a 10th of the manager's estimation of his future worth even if he fulfils everything. "He's one for the future," Ball purrs, almost licking his lips in anticipation. Just as Exeter fans drool from theirs about a goal Phillips scored against Fulham in September. They call it the best ever seen at St James Park and, yes, they are quite prepared to throw in that little ground of the same name up on Tyneside into the equation.

Receiving the ball with his back to goal 30 yards inside his own half, Phillips turned and beat three opponents before gliding upfield, where he bewitched two more before curling a right-foot shot into the top left-hand corner of the net. You would say it was Ryan Giggs-like, except that another tag is the last thing he needs.

"I've known Martin since he was a 13-year-old associated schoolboy," Ball said, "and even then he shone out like a beacon. In many ways he is an old-fashioned winger who can operate equally effectively on either flank. He has a lovely attitude towards his football and has immense talent."

"If there was one question mark about him, it was that he was a bit on the slight side and we might need to put him on a regime to build him up. Then, George Best wasn't muscle bound when he was 19 and he didn't do too badly."

"I don't want to put Martin

Guy Hodgson on the youngster who has swapped the countryside for Moss Side

under any pressure by labelling him a second George Best, but I want the Manchester City fans to know we have signed the most exciting young player in English soccer." Ball's opinion might not be shared on such a grandiose scale by other clubs, but they were hovering just in case. Against Brentford this season 13 scouts turned up — they were just the ones who announced their presence — and it was this increasing interest that forced Ball to act.

"I can guess what our supporters are saying," Ball said. "They are wondering if a club in our position can afford the luxury of spending money on a player who isn't ready for the first team. I can only answer that, if I hadn't got him now, some other club in the Premiership would."

That included Manchester United, who had been monitoring Phillips' progress. Having lost Giggs to their bitter rivals, a second lost treasure would not have been forgiven. "Martin has been signed for tomorrow, not for today," Ball continued. "He is a little boy from the West Country who has never been away from home before and he will need time to settle at a big club in a big city. He's used to green fields and the countryside, not Moss Side. I'm not even sure he knows what girls are yet."

"I want to give him time to adjust to his new surroundings. I don't want to damage his confidence by throwing him in at the deep end too soon but I would expect him to be in contention for a place in the Premiership side before the end of the season."

"Maybe if we were in a comfortable mid-table position I could afford to put him in, but not now. We need all the experience we can get at the moment."

Needs can overthrow intentions, however, and it was noticeable that the name of Phillips was added to an injury-stricken City squad for their match against Chelsea last Saturday. He did not make it to the substitutes' bench but you sense his progress is such that it is just a question of time.

Then the real question can be asked. Is he the £10m man?



Premature evaluation: Once priced at £10m, Martin Phillips trains with Manchester City yesterday. Photograph: David Ashdown

Australian big hitter with a bigger future

He is known as "Scud", as in missile, which is convenient since his name, Mark Philippoussis, is as big as his serve.

Philippoussis, in common with the American Pete Sampras, another of Greek ancestry, has sought inspiration from the accomplishments of the great Australian champions of the past. But Philippoussis may find that he is cursed by them, being an Aussie himself and subject to the weight of expectancy which passes from one potent prodigy to the next. Philippoussis is among the latest crop of contenders, along with Patrick Rafter, Jason Stoltenberg, Michael Tabbott and Scott Draper. Although Draper has moved to the United States to compare his style to Rod Laver's, the 19-year-old Philippoussis appears custom-made for the power-dominated modern game, from a 6ft 4in frame to a desire to hammer the opposition into submission.

"I have never seen an Australian hit the ball as hard in any movement," observed his compatriot, Mark Woodforde. "It doesn't matter what the score is, in a practice match, or a training session, or even in a proper match, he just wants to wallop it."

Belted the ball does not guarantee success but, as Woodforde pointed out: "Mark has great success with that at the moment, and I think he has got a very bright future."

Ranked No 274 when given a wild card for the Australian Open in January, Philippoussis had risen to within striking distance of the top 20 in October after advancing to his third ATP Tour final of the year.

Encouraged by a stirring first-round performance in Melbourne, where he lost in five sets to Stefan Edberg, Philippoussis continued to impress in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February. He accounted for the Russian baseliner, Andrei Chesnokov, and the American serve-volleyer, Todd Martin, before falling to Jim Courier's hefty groundstrokes in the final.

After something of a lull, during which Philippoussis largely was defeated by more experienced and higher-ranked opponents, the youngster launched another impressive attack in October, elevating his ranking from No 90 to No 32 on the strength of a fortnight's results indoors in the East End. The surge of form may have been related to a move to the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida.

While Philippoussis has prospered on rubberised concrete courts and indoor surfaces, it remains to be seen whether his physical prowess

Mark Philippoussis is custom-made for the modern power game, says John Roberts

translates successfully to Wimbledon. Returning serve on grass has proved a problem for other mighty servers. Having been a finalist in the junior event at the All England Club in 1994, Philippoussis would appear to have the right credentials, although Ivan Lendl, a winner of the Wimbledon boys title, failed to capture the major prize.

Lendl is among a number of people who have contributed to Philippoussis's education. The former world No 1 invited him to train at his home in Connecticut, just as he did the young Sampras. John Newcombe and Tony Roche also ensured that Philippoussis was given an early taste of Davis Cup atmosphere last year by taking him to Russia as a hitting partner. But the strongest influence is his father.

Nick Philippoussis gave up his job as a Melbourne taxi driver to supervise his son's



Philippoussis: Hard-hitter

development. He is given credit for rescuing Mark's career after a junior trip to Asia less than three years ago resulted in a six-month suspension and a ban from official touring teams.

The youngster responded positively to his father's ultimatum to make up his mind if he wanted to play tennis, and, if he did, to give it total commitment.

On the other hand, when a wild card requested for Wimbledon this year was not forthcoming, an offended Nick advised Mark not to enter the qualifying event, and so he gave the world's most important championships a miss. This cost Mark valuable experience, at the least, and was another example that tennis fathers do not always know best.

Villeneuve prepared for all the expectations

The Williams-Renault mechanics, informed their new driver had dumped his car off the circuit, stood around awaiting his return and with it a familiar, technical excuse. At last the small figure, helmet in hand, appeared in the garage. "Sorry," he said coyly.

No familiar technical excuses, or excuses at all. Even when his engineer claimed responsibility for suggesting they run with slick tyres on a damp track, the new man would have none of it. "No, I was driving the car," he insisted.

In more ways than one, Jacques Villeneuve promises to be a refreshing addition to the Formula One line-up.

The winner of the 1995 IndyCar series, he is another son of a famous father. Unlike

the States-tied Michael Andretti, however, Villeneuve is a French Canadian with a home in Monaco, cultural empathy with Europe and a thoroughly urbane outlook on life.

Also unlike the ill-starred Andretti, he is likely to have, along with his team-mate, Damon Hill, the best car in the championship, and, come the first race in Melbourne on 10 March, he will have the benefit of many test sessions.

Hill, too, has had to pursue a career under the weight of the "son of" mantle, but while his father, and Andretti's, fulfilled themselves, Gilles Villeneuve was denied that opportunity. He was killed in qualifying for the Belgian Grand Prix in 1982.

The second coming of a Villeneuve to Formula One has

inevitably stirred emotional expectations that he will now take up the torch and accomplish the mission. He is prepared for the expectations, but not the mission. Jacques, who was 11 when his father died, said: "A lot of people would like to hear me say that, but I'm not going to say that just to make everyone happy. Yes, I sense the expectation is there, but that's not the reason I am in racing. I am not racing because my father left too early and I have to carry on the name and tradition and all that."

"I'm really proud of my father and he's a legend and always will be, but I am racing because I am having fun. I enjoy it, and it's been going well."

It did not instantly go well for the young Villeneuve and the

Another son of a famous father will be a refreshing addition to the Formula One circuit. Derick Allsop reports

modest beginnings perhaps eased the burden. He recalled: "It was very hard, as everybody knew me because of my father. But I was very much a kid then and I didn't really care what was going on around me, so it didn't hurt me that much."

Villeneuve attended racing schools in Canada and flexed his competitive instincts in 1988, in the Alfa Romeo Tourism Championship. "I did three races and crashed after five laps every time."

"Then I went into Italian

Formula Three and that was the first real racing I did. I would be maybe a second and a half off pole and not qualify, and it did look terrible. But it was a great school and with times like that in Britain I would have qualified eighth."

"I always knew, though — and I don't know why — that I would make it. This was what I really wanted to do and every year it gets better and better."

After three years in Italian Formula Three he moved to

from there back to north America. "Like all Europeans, I thought only of Formula One, then I opened my mind to both worlds."

He developed his own style: less spectacular than his father's, and less erratic. He won the IndyCar Rookie of the Year for 1994 and followed up with the championship. Williams tested him and decided he was the driver to replace David Coulthard.

Villeneuve is no more willing than Coulthard to play No 2 to Hill, but he regards the British pair's well-chronicled skirmishes with disdain.

"I think all that stuff is useless," he said. "There's no point. I think you should just do your job. I'm not sure what is the truth and what isn't, so I can't really have an opinion."

"My relationship with Damon is great. At a race it may be different, but there's enough pressure from the racing itself without pressure from within a team. It isn't beneficial, it doesn't make you perform. It becomes in-team fighting instead of championship fighting, and I don't think that's positive."

Villeneuve acknowledges he has been given a much-coveted chance and that he cannot afford to consider 1996 a learning year. Andretti was sacked before completing a full season.

"You do that if you don't go with a top team," Villeneuve said. "This is a winning team. It's a winning car, probably the best, everything is there to win, so as a driver you're not paid to cruise."



Villeneuve: Urbane outlook

around, you're paid to give it your best shot.

"We are going to work towards winning the championship. That doesn't mean we are going to make it, but I feel it's not out of the question. The IndyCar, I had felt like a second pair of socks, and once we get there with Formula One it's going to be beautiful."

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Ferguson turns up the pressure on Keegan

"You have to earn the right to be a champion," Alex Ferguson said after his Manchester United team had beaten Newcastle on Wednesday.

He was right, but it also sounded suspiciously like the Manchester United manager was beginning the psychological battle which is so much a part of a modern title campaign. Last year his world games so needed Blackburn that even the mild-mannered Tim Flowers was provoked into a response

to his calculated barbs about "pressure". Rovers did go on to win the title, but only just. Their closing record of seven points from six games was hardly championship form and, had Manchester United taken their chances at West Ham on the final day, the title would have remained at Old Trafford.

The previous year Blackburn had closed a 15-point lead, only to find the effort left them unable to pass Manchester United. Two years earlier Uni-

ed had themselves let slip a nine-point lead to Leeds.

Those examples underline that seven points, Newcastle's current lead over Manchester United, is a slim cushion with 18 games to go. Even so, only Arsenal in 1989 of the last eight champions have not been leading the table on New Year's Day – so history remains on Newcastle's side.

Their away form is a problem, although between now and 2 March, when Manchester Uni-

Manchester United's victory over the leaders means the title race is now a test of character, says Glenn Moore

ed visit St James' Park, they have only one difficult trip, to nearby Middlesbrough on 10 February. Equally worrying is the loss of Keith Gillespie, so crucial a part of Newcastle's gameplan. He is unlikely to return from the ruptured thigh tendon he suffered on Wednesday much before that March match. With

Ruel Fox now at Tottenham Kevin Keegan's options are limited, especially as Scott Sellars, who could have gone on the left with David Ginola switching wings, has just moved to Bolton. It would not be a surprise if Keegan spent to fill the gap, especially as rumours persist that Gillespie has not settled on

Tyneside. After spending £14m in the summer, this season has a win-or-bust feel about it for the Magpies. Manchester United, by contrast, are in a transitional season – that they are challenging so strongly is a bonus.

It remains to be seen if their young players can sustain their performance. Much relies upon Ryan Giggs and Eric Cantona maintaining fitness, form and availability.

Their win will also give renewed hope to the other con-

tenders, notably Liverpool, whose form is returning after a bad November. Tottenham, who are having a good run and acquiring the unfamiliar sobriquet of "hard to beat" – and Arsenal, who will soon have Dennis Bergkamp back.

The likelihood remains that the champions will be Manchester United or Newcastle. The latter are favourites. They seem invincible at home, they have the resources to buy if their challenge continues to falter, and

they are not over-reliant on one man – although Peter Beardsley is still the key influence.

But do they have the "bottle"? Manchester United and Blackburn both won their first recent titles after experiencing narrow failure the previous season. Newcastle led the table last season but were never in contention when it mattered. Kevin Keegan's undoubted motivational powers, and Terry McDermott's ability to relax players, will now be tested.

Sport fears chaos as freeze bites

NICK DUXBURY and DAVE HADFIELD

Sport was confronting the prospect of major disruption to the weekend programme today as the weather showed no sign of releasing its grip.

Football, rugby union and rugby league were all expected to lose games to frozen pitches, with racing again wiped out today, with little hope of much action tomorrow.

In the Premiership, the matches at Aston Villa and West Ham United look vulnerable, but only three games in the entire Scottish League (Rangers v Hibs, Dundee United v Airdrie and Queen's Park v Ross County) have any chance of surviving.

A delay in the resumption of rugby union's Courage League programme could provoke a club v country controversy. All tomorrow's five League One matches appear set to be postponed and club officials are pencilling in the blank date of 13 January to re-stage them.

However, that will cut across England's Five Nations Championship plans, with the squad having warm-weather training abroad that weeked as part of their preparations to play France in Paris on 20 January. Already Moseley's investment in a £1,000 pitch cover has failed to save their two most lucrative games of the season. They lost £6,000 when their Boxing Day derby with Coventry was called off and tomorrow's League Two game against leaders Northampton – expected to bring in £25,000 – has been called off.

Plans to salvage tomorrow's rugby league Regal Trophy

semi-final between St Helens and Warrington by switching it to Wigan's heated pitch were scrapped when the local police declared they unable to supervise the match at short notice.

With Saints' Knowsley Road ground described as unplayable yesterday and no thaw in sight, efforts are now being laid to play the match next Thursday.

The broader weather picture is also causing concern in rugby league, with the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day programmes under threat and an overwhelming log-jam of fixtures building up.

The game's final winter season is due to end on 21 January, but Wigan still have four league matches, plus a semi-final and possibly the final of the Regal Trophy to play in a little over three weeks. Warrington, Halifax, Bradford and Oldham – the latter three arguably the coldest grounds in the league – have five league matches to play.

A blank week for British jumping enthusiasts looks the most likely bet after all today's race meetings were called off.

Tomorrow's meeting at Nottingham has already been abandoned and there will be inspections today at Catterick (8.30am), Newbury (9.30) and Folkestone (noon). A total of 24 meetings have now been lost this week with only Wolverhampton's double-header on sand tomorrow breaking the gloom.

One sport which is certain to beat the freeze is the Bupa International Cross-Country event at Durham tomorrow. Heavy snow had put the meeting, which is part of the World Cross-Country Challenge circuit, in doubt, but an inspection yesterday gave the all-clear.

PREMIERSHIP PROSPECTS OF PLAY FOR SATURDAY

Arsenal v Wimbledon

The Gunners have always put a high priority on under-soil heating. They were one of the first London clubs to have a system installed and updated it five years ago. Prospects: Good.

Aston Villa v Sheffield Wed

Villa are still relying on sheeting to cover the pitch – and were caught out when the Boxing Day game against Liverpool was frozen out. Chairman Doug Ellis has promised to install an under-soil system in the summer of 1997, but until then they are at the mercy of the weather. Prospects: Could fall victim to weather again.

Blackburn v Tottenham

Rovers originally installed their system six years ago, but it has been improved since Jack Walker poured millions into the redevelopment of Ewood Park. Raised the benefit when their Boxing Day evening fixture against Manchester City went ahead. Prospects: Good.

Bolton v Coventry

Wanderers were one of the first clubs to install an under-soil system and were able to stage Wednesday's match against Leeds despite temperatures dipping to around minus five. Prospects: Good.

Chelsea v Liverpool

Stanford Bridge managing director Colin Hutchinson is a great believer that under-soil heating, installed by Chelsea in the mid-1980s, should be mandatory. Prospects: Good.

Manchester Utd v QPR

Old Trafford has one of the most up-to-date heating systems in the country, originally installed eight years ago. It can work to temperatures as low as minus 12 – as demonstrated with the snow-sheets for yesterday's clash with Newcastle. Prospects: Good.

Nottingham v Middlesbrough

Forest installed their under-pitch heating system last season and duly repaid dividends with Tuesday's match against Sheffield Wednesday going ahead. The East Midlands is one of the few areas of the country not yet hit by the cold snap. Prospects: Good.

Southampton v Man City

Saints are one of five Premiership clubs without heating. Instead they rely on covers. Traditionally milder temperatures in the south-east have helped the club build an impressive record of avoiding postponements. Prospects: Reasonable.

West Ham v Newcastle

The Hammers lost their Boxing Day game against Coventry, but it was the first match frozen off in years. They rely on covers, but are reviewing the installation of a heating system. Prospects: Another possible weather victim.

Feathers flying: Keith Deller takes aim in his match against Kevin Spiolek at Circus Tavern, Purfleet yesterday

As Keith Deller and Kevin Spiolek took their final practice throws before the first match at the World Darts Championship yesterday, a technician made an adjustment to a smoke machine at the back of the auditorium: he turned it up. This, after all, was darts, the sport in which you can't just feel the atmosphere, you can see it as well.

A few years ago, the spectators could be relied upon to provide more than enough smoke of their own, but no longer. Fug machines, not to mention giddily-spinning spotlights, pounding disco beats and highly inventive camera angles, have been part of darts for three years, since most of the world's best players broke away from the ruling World Darts Federation and signed up with Sky television. As a result, the championship currently taking place at Purfleet's Circus Tavern is unofficial, but few who know the game will dispute that its winner will be the best player in the world.

When the "rebel" World Darts Council was formed, many of its members were ac-

Smoke signals a new era for rebels of the arrows

Greg Wood reports from Purfleet, where the unofficial championship of darts gives the best players in the world the chance to underline their superiority

cused of putting their own interests before those of the sport. Fading talents such as Eric Birtles, Jocky Wilson and Cliff Lazarenko, the giants of its mid-80s heyday, could now delay their retirement for a few more seasons. Yet the very best players went with them – Dennis Priestley, Rod Harrington, Alan Warriner and, above all, Phil Taylor, reckoned by many to be the finest thrower ever to toe an oche. Whoever wins the official championship, which starts on 1 January, would need a three-set start to get close to the WDC's best.

The split has also cost many

of the players money. Harrington, last year's runner-up at the Circus Tavern and rated No 2 in the world, estimates he has lost £30,000 in the three years since, as WDC players are now banned from all other darts events. "I used to go to say the Austrian Open, I'd get maybe £1,500 for a few exhibitions beforehand and then if I won the tournament I might go home £4,000 better off for a week's work. I'm not doing too badly now, but the wife's still working."

Harrington won his match with Nigel Justice yesterday, but after his defeat by Barry Butler

the previous evening. Justice must beat Butler today if Harrington is to advance from the round-robin first round to the knockout stage. The defeat by Butler still rankled yesterday – the American, it seemed, had engaged Harrington in some distinctly unsporting backstage chat between sets.

When a millimetre either way is the difference between £1,250 or – in the case of the overall winner, £14,000 – the pressure on a throwing arm is considerable. "Right now I can feel some nerves in my stomach," Harrington said an hour

before his match, "but as it gets closer the nerves turn to adrenaline, your eyes start popping and you can get really aggressive."

Match or not, you can coax a similar reaction from any darts player by describing their sport as a game. A game, as Steve Davis once responded to a similar accusation about snooker, is something you do for fun. With its demands of physical skill and mental resilience, darts is a much of a sport as any other, and one which, in WDC-land at least, grows stronger by the year.

The new sponsor for this year's tournament, Vernons

Poole flounder under the pressure of financial problems

Non-League football
RUPERT METCALF

If ever a club needs a change of fortune in the new year, it is Poole Town of the Beazer Homes League. Stranded at the bottom of the Southern Division, having lost all of their League games to date, Poole also face an uncertain long-term future as they lack a permanent home.

After Boxing Day's 4-2 home defeat by Weymouth, Poole's playing record in the Beazer is played 19, lost 19, with a goal difference of minus 73. However, they did have something to celebrate on Tuesday: They scored twice in a match for the first time this campaign.

Poole's dreadful financial state has meant that they have been unable to play players this season, which is the main reason

for their terrible results – they have been unable to compete with rival clubs with a wage budget. It has been a tough year for Poole's manager, Keith Miller, a former West Ham and Bournemouth defender: at the age of 47 he had to turn out in one recent League game when he was short of players.

"We are lucky that seven or eight senior players have decided to stick with the club,"

Mark Willis, Poole's secretary, said yesterday. "We've been filling the gaps with youth-team lads. They can cope with narrow defeats, but six or seven-goal beatings are hard to bear."

The club was obliged to vacate Poole Stadium, its base since 1933, last year. The local borough council has plans to develop the site for use as a speedway and greyhound venue, and has made it plain that there is

no room for football as well. Town now share the County Ground with Hamworthy United, a Dorset Combination club, but efforts to develop this venue have been frustrated by planning permission problems.

Although the council has promised the club some financial assistance, it has been unable to assist so far in the search for a location for a new stadium, which is Town's

ultimate ambition. "The determination to keep battling away has gone through in the last few months," Willis said. "We've been going for 115 years, so we'll do our best to survive a couple of tough ones."

■ Marine, of the UniBond League, have been given £10,000 by Bolton Wanderers following Jason McAree's £4.5m move from Burnley Park to Liverpool.

Slow going for Sayonara

Sailing

The American maxi Sayonara, owned by computer billionaire Larry Ellison, was set to win the Sydney to Hobart race overnight, writes Stuart Alexander. However, light winds destroyed any hopes of the 75-footer, on which Rupert Murdoch is crewing, heating the 20-year-old record time of two days, 14 hours, 36 minutes and 56 seconds.

But Sayonara, which slowed from an average of over 12 knots in the first 24 hours to less than five in the last 12, was well clear of the leading Australian contender, George Snow's Brindabella, with Peter Wallbraun's 69ft Foxell Amazon in third.

Forecasts of a brisk 15-20 knot north-westerly promised a fast finish for the chasing bunch of nearly 100 yachts and the opportunity for a win on handicap by a smaller yacht and place changes among the eight three-hoop teams in the Southern Cross Cup.

The solo sailor Sam Brewster will start an attempt to sail round the world against the prevailing winds and currents on New Year's Day from Brazil, where she has been repairing the 67ft Heath Insured after damage curtailed her original attempt, which started from Britain last January. She will return to a line off Ushant, on the Brittany coast, and then sail back down the Atlantic to Brazil.

Athletics

Yordanka Donkova, the former 100-metre hurdles Olympic champion and world record holder, is expecting a baby and will miss the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July.

Basketball

NBA: LA Clippers 116 Charlotte 107; Milwaukee 99 Minnesota 93 (10); Washington 115 Golden State 94; Phoenix 105 Philadelphia 90; Portland 136 Boston 108; Seattle 99 Denver 63.

Cricket

ASIAN CUP (third day of four): Pakistan 223 and 121 for 8; Western Province 422 (4 Gibbs, 112; 11 Ackerman 64; 11 Cornma 57; 10 Rundle 50; 11 Erasmus 9-87). East London: Border won by 30 wickets. Free State 188 and 167; 15 Pople 7-62; Border 301; 10 Sydney 58; 11 Krieger 4-61 and 55 for 0.

Darts

VERNONS POOLS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Circus Tavern, Purfleet) Wednesday's late results: Group Five: 1. Butler (10) vs 2. Harrington (10) 3-2; Group Six: 1. Anderson (10) vs 2. Vetter (10) 3-1; Group Seven: 1. Harrington (10) vs 2. Brown (10) 3-0. Yesterday: Group Two: 1. Deller (10) vs 1. Spiolek (10) 3-2; Group Three: 1. Harrington (10) vs 1. Justice (10) 3-0; Group Four: 1. Priestley (10) vs 1. Butler (10) 3-0.

Football

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Bolton Wanderers 0 Leeds 0 (2 Brown 40; Westwood 63); 1. Leeds 2-0 (Brown 40; Westwood 63); 1. Leeds 2-0 (Brown 40; Westwood 63).

Lucas Radebe, the Leeds United defender, has been withdrawn from next month's African Nations Cup finals after talks between the Eland Road manager, Howard Wilkinson, and the South African team doctor. Radebe is only just getting over a knee operation carried out nine months ago. Manchester City have sold the defender David Bentley to Bradford City for £20,000. Brentford, whose striker Ian plays in midfield at Maine Road, has been on loan at Valley Parade for the past week after failing to make the Mancunians' first team under Alan Ball. Bristol City have signed the Southampton striker, Craig Maskell, on a month's loan.

Gymnastics

Barbara Collins, the former British Olympic gymnast, has died of breast cancer after a long illness. The 42-year-old died at home in Galveston, Texas, after fighting the disease for two years. She became the national women's champion in 1972. Collins was also a member of

Britain's team for the 1972 Munich Olympics and competed against the legendary Russian gymnast, Olga Korbut.

Hockey

Bluebird's Purdy Miller will remember the opening day in the Under-21 Territorial Tournament at Rotham for a long time as she scored three goals to put East in a commanding position in their opening game against South. At England's Kirby Bowden had brilliantly set up the first goal for Miller, the Bluebird striker then poached two more from close quarters and, although South rallied with goals from Charlotte Manchester and Jo Murphy, it was not enough and the match finished 3-2.

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TOURNAMENTS: Under-22 (Avenue St, Rotham): West 3 North 3; East 3 South 2; Midlands 5 West 3; Under-18 (Charnock Street): Midlands 4 South 0; East 0 North 0; Under-16 (Riverside): East 1 North 0; South 3 West 2.

Ice Hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division (Wednesday's late results): Sheffield 5 Newcastle 5. NHL: Ottawa 4 Buffalo 3; New Jersey 5 NY Islanders 3; Calgary 4 Toronto 0; Edmonton 5 Philadelphia 2; Los Angeles 7 Montreal 1.

Rugby Union

Stuart Davies, the Swansea captain, has declared himself fit for the Heineken Five Nations Cup semi-final match away to Toulouse tomorrow after recovering from a shoulder injury. Robert Jones, the scrum-half who has been suffering from flu, and his half-back partner Alun Williams (both injury) are both expected to come through tests later today.

Wales' other semi-finalists, Cardiff, who tackle Leicester at Lansdowne Road tomorrow, are likely to be without their flanker, Mark Bennett. LEINSTER vs CARDIFF, Heineken Five Nations Cup semi-final, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, tomorrow: C. Davies (Toulouse) vs P. Jones (Cardiff); V. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); R. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); S. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); T. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); B. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); J. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); M. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); D. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); N. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); H. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); W. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); R. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); I. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); O. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); F. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); A. Jones (Leinster) vs M. Jones (Cardiff); S. Jones (Leinster) vs M. 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SPORT

'I don't want to put Martin under any pressure by labelling him a second George Best, but I want the Manchester City fans to know we have signed the most exciting young player in English soccer.' **FOOTBALL'S FACE FOR '96**

Page 22

FOURTH TEST: England captain unhappy with dismissal decision as his team-mates display familiar failings under pressure

Mitchley adds to Atherton's woes

Bowler 'set up' claims Border

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Port Elizabeth
South Africa 428
England 250-7

If the sample population of twelve thousand or so people present at St George's Park was anything to go by, then the whole of the country must have come close to erupting at six minutes to noon yesterday, the moment Paul Adams celebrated his first wicket in Test cricket.

It did not stop there, either, and he later removed the England captain, Michael Atherton, albeit in controversial circumstances, to finish a previous day's cricket with 2 for 75 off 32 overs.

In the space of a month his rubber-hinged hiccup of an action has become one of the best known sights in South Africa. Best of all he is a product of what can be achieved in this country now that the old orthodoxy has been supplanted. His presence in this rather faceless side (whose most famous figure is, perversely, a fielder) is as fresh and unfettered as the Cape Doctor that whistles across the Cape Flats where he lives.

It did not matter a jot (except to England) that both his wickets were tinged with good fortune, for he bowled well throughout the day. The parsimonious nature of the pitch offered little turn and after being given some rough treatment by Graeme Hick, who struck him over long-on for his first six, he completed an invaluable first day in the classroom.

However, the rare sight of a third uninterrupted day's cricket did not prevent England from displaying their usual failings under pressure. Only Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick managed to pass fifty, and but for their partnership of 75 and some clever salvage work by Jack Russell and Richard Illingworth, who put on 50 late in the day, England would have been following-on with two days left to play.

Once again England were indebted to their skipper, who scored a gritty compact 72 before being given out caught behind off Adams. The ball – a rare chinaman – brushed the outside of the pad as Atherton went back to flick it to leg.

It was a poor decision from the umpire, Cyril Mitchley, standing in his 11th Test, not least because of the amount of doubt involved. That doubt had been in evidence just before lunch, when he gave Atherton the benefit of it, after the batsman swivelled on a short ball from Pollock, which faintly brushed the bottom glove on its way to the wicketkeeper.

In the event, Atherton looked up in disbelief muttering something under his breath, before trudging off knowing that his job of seeing England to relative



On his way: Michael Atherton trudges off having been given out by the South African umpire, Cyril Mitchley, in yesterday's fourth Test

Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport

safety across hostile country had been left unfinished.

The incident clearly upset Atherton and those that remember the England captain's deft polo swipe sending a plastic chair cartwheeling in Perth last winter, may like to know that a similar one, positioned invitingly outside the England dressing-room, had a leg mysteriously amputated, minutes after Atherton's dismissal.

If there was evidence of off-field chair abuse, there was no clear-cut dissent on the pitch,

though 18 months earlier – against this same opposition at the Oval – he had been fined half his match fee (about £1,500) for little more than shaking his head after being given out lbw.

The match referee on that occasion was Peter Burge, who, having been deposed earlier in the summer by Atherton, over the soil in the pocket affair at Lord's, was always going to come down hard. Yesterday's referee was Clive Lloyd, whose quick and sensitive intervention promptly defused the hall

tampering incident in Durban.

Once again he decided the player involved did not have a case to answer, though he did see fit to speak to the managers of both sides during the tea interval, in a bid to curb players from gesturing at one another on the field. The culprits apparently being Cork to Cullinan on Wednesday and the "I'm reeling you in" gesture Brian McMillan gave Robin Smith a few balls before sending him packing lbw.

Once again Smith showed the indecision that plagues his early

minutes at the crease and when Hick followed him, lbw to Allan Donald, 10 overs later with the score 199 for 6, England looked to be listing. It was another poor decision, the ball striking Hick well above the knee roll, completing a trying day for umpire Mitchley.

At the press conference afterwards, Professor Richard Stretch, who has been monitoring a study of Test match umpires' heart rates, confirmed that they can often reach peaks of 140 per minute following an appeal. If this happens to be the

case with Mitchley, then perhaps raising a finger is a way of avoiding impending cardiac arrest. If not, he will probably just admit to having had a bad day.

He was not the only one, as the majority of England's top order showed in another poor display on a near perfect batting pitch. Jason Gallian, who was neatly caught by Daryll Cullinan at first slip off Pollock, failed to add to his overnight score.

Gallian still pushes too hard at the good-length ball pitching around off stump, and although

his 14 runs represented the highest score so far by an England No 3 in this series, it was a pyrrhic victory.

Another in need of a big score is Graham Thorpe, who looked in fine form, driving and pulling with great control despite an off-the-mark shot that flashed over coverpoint's head for four. When he was out, misreading a pull off Adams to Jonny Rhodes at mid-wicket, he had played some of his best cricket of the tour so far.

It is a claim Dominic Cork would not presume to make after his three balls at the crease. He edged a wide one from Pollock, who bowled with persistent accuracy and aggression, finishing a good day for South Africa with 3 for 58.

England, who finished on 250 for 7, can still save this match, though much will depend on how South Africa bat in their second innings and whether Hansie Cronje will be as cautious as he was in Johannesburg, where his delayed declaration probably prevented his team from winning the second Test.

Richie Richardson and Allan Border yesterday joined the controversy over the legality of Muttiah Muralitharan's action, as both defended Sri Lanka's 23-year-old off-spinner.

Muralitharan's Test career is under threat after he was no-balled seven times for throwing on the opening day of the second Test against Australia. Sri Lanka are considering omitting him from next month's third Test and sending him home unless the International Cricket Council makes a definite ruling over his suspect bowling action.

Richardson, whose West Indies side played Sri Lanka earlier this month in the World Series limited-overs tournament in Australia, said he did not believe the spinner was a "chucker", merely unorthodox.

"When I look at the slow motion picture of him bowling, I don't really think he chucks. He comes over with a slightly bent arm and when he releases the ball his wrist straightens, but if you look really carefully the arm remains bent," the West Indian captain said.

Border, who retired from Test cricket last year, admitted: "I just feel sorry for this young bloke and I think he's been set up a little bit."

"If they decide he's legal, let him play out his career because he's played 23 Tests to date and hasn't been called before."

Richardson also questioned the sudden decision to no-ball Muralitharan. "I don't want to criticise the umpire but if he's checked that one he has thrown many more," he said.

The controversy and confusion lingered into the second day of the Test when Muralitharan bowled a further 20 overs without being no-balled.

Muralitharan was bowling from the Southern End of the MCC when he was no-balled on Tuesday by David Heatley but he survived subsequent scrutiny after switching to the Members' End, where Steve Dunning, the umpire from New Zealand, was standing.

The Sri Lanka management said they would talk to both umpires at the end of the match in an attempt to establish why some of Muralitharan's deliveries were called while others were deemed legitimate.

Hair, who made all the calls against him, told Sri Lankan officials: he would no-ball him again if Muralitharan bowled during the final session of the second day on Wednesday, but Muralitharan did not bowl again in the innings even though Australia made 500.

Sri Lanka collapse, page 21

Port Elizabeth scoreboard

Third day: South Africa won easily	
SOUTH AFRICA – First innings 428 (40 J. Cullinan 91, D. J. Richardson 81, D. G. Coetzee 4-113)	
ENGLAND – First innings (Overseas: 40 for 11)	
J. A. Atherton c Richardson b Adams	72
G. Hick c Richardson b Pollock	14
J. E. R. Duffell c Coetzee b Pollock	14
G. P. Thorpe c Rhodes b Adams	27
G. A. Hick b D. Donald	25
D. J. Richardson c Adams b Pollock	25
R. A. Smith c D. Donald	2
R. A. Smith not out	29
D. J. Richardson not out	1
D. J. Richardson c D. Donald b Pollock	1
D. J. Richardson not out	25
D. J. Richardson not out	17
Extras (bats, lbw, nbw)	17
Total (for 7, 430 min, 320 overs)	259

Captain guilty of 'disappointment'

Mike Atherton was treated with sympathy after shaking his head and trudging off slowly when the South African umpire, Cyril Mitchley, gave him out caught behind off Paul Adams on 72. The hall appeared to hush the pad and make no contact with Atherton's bat.

Some referees might have viewed his actions as showing dissent, but the match referee, Clive Lloyd, ruled that Atherton

had displayed nothing more than disappointment.

"I've no problems with Mike Atherton's departure from the crease," Lloyd said. "If a batsman walks away slowly, that's OK, so long as they walk away."

Lloyd did take exception to the antics of Dominic Cork and South Africa's Brian McMillan. Both were guilty of trying to 'wind up' opposition batsmen by making gestures meant to convey that

they were reeling them in and would soon get them out.

"It's got to a stage where I don't want anything like that," said Lloyd, who spoke to both team managers, Raymond Illingworth and Alan Jordan, during the tea interval.

Cork and Mark Lloyd had already been spoken by Illingworth after the first day's play following exaggerated celebration at the fall of a wicket.

Jones faces FA charge for comments on Gullit

Football

Wimbledon will not support Vinnie Jones when he faces a charge of bringing the game into disrepute brought by the Football Association yesterday.

Sam Hammam, the club's chairman, said he was disappointed Jones' numerous indiscretions over the years, said last night there would be no appeal against the player's sending-off at Chelsea on Boxing Day, and no dispute of the FA charge, which followed Jones' comments about Ruud Gullit and other foreign players in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday.

Jones, 30, is on the transfer list after being dropped for the 3-3 draw with Newcastle nearly a month ago. He made a surprise return at Chelsea but his fouls on Chelsea's imports, the Romanian Dan Petrescu and

the Dutchman Gullit, led to the 11th dismissal of his career. He then criticised foreign players, Gullit in particular, in a first-person article in the *Daily Mirror*.

Hammam said it was up to Wimbledon's manager, Joe Kinnear, whether to pick Jones for tomorrow's visit to Arsenal, but he added: "This is not the Vinnie Jones I know and whom I regarded as almost a son."

What he has done is wrong. The foul on Ruud Gullit was wrong and the newspaper article was wrong. Vinnie told me that what was in the paper was in his own words and nobody else can be blamed.

"I'm sure he is sorry for it and I think that is what he will tell the FA. It was all said in the heat of temper but he admits he was quoted accurately."

Hammam said Wimbledon would not appeal against the sending-off because "we believe

Vinnie merited a second yellow card."

"The newspaper article is his own affair and so it is with regard to any apology to Ruud Gullit. That is for Vinnie to decide upon, although I can't imagine Gullit is looking for an apology. He is a big man in the game and we are lucky to have him and other foreign players like Dennis Bergkamp in our League."

Jones has 14 days in which to request a personal hearing against the disrepute charge. If found guilty, he could be suspended or heavily fined for likening Gullit to a "squealing, pot-bellied pig" among his criticisms of foreign players.

Liverpool are letting Mark Walters, Ian Moyle and Paul Stewart leave Anfield on free transfers. They have been told by Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, they have no future at the club. *Pressure on Kinnear*, page 23

League rebels head for defeat

Crystal Palace's Ron Noades and a group of other club chairmen look likely to fail in their rebellion over the distribution of television money and other sponsorship funds among English League clubs, which is to be discussed at today's Football League meeting in London.

The chairmen of the 72 clubs will vote on how to share out an annual £35m cash windfall that is largely funded by the new five-year television deal with Sky and is boosted by sponsorship, fixtures and a £3m hand-out from the FA and Premier League.

The League's board of directors are proposing that First Division clubs should,

from next season, receive at least £631,300 compared with the current figure of £240,000. Many clubs would collect more than £1m because payments rise according to League placings to £391,200 for the champions, plus any additional TV facility fees.

That is not enough for some clubs, led by Norwich and supported by Noades and Ian Stott of Oldham, who are recommending a mass resignation from the League by 31 December unless they get their way.

The League is confident of winning a 75 per cent majority is needed to carry the motion, which means at least six First Division chairmen supporting

the 54 Second and Third Division clubs, who appear to support the League's leadership.

Under the board's plan a club finishing mid-way in the First Division would receive a basic £766,900. There is also an increase for the Second and Third Divisions. Annual payments of £164,000 and £159,000, respectively, would rise to between £365,088 and £302,712 in the Second and between £235,312 and £211,055 in the Third.

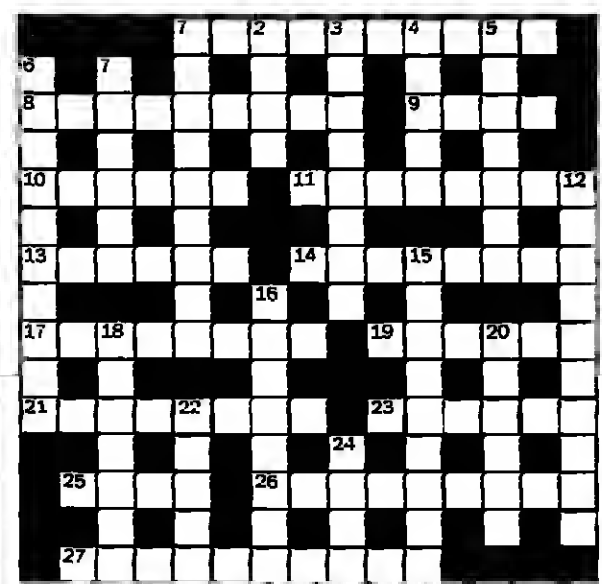
Norwich want an increase of £550,000 per annum on the £21.15m that is to go to the First Division clubs out of the £25m Sky deal and a greater say in the running of League affairs.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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By Miss

Thursday's Solution



ACROSS

- Trick with ace fits – in other words, is appropriate (10)
- Take back to haunt again? (9)
- Adrenaline keeps the sap circulating! (4)
- Still causing interference? (6)
- You shouldn't be faced with this kind of thing (4,4)
- Write off article for inclusion in book (6)
- Chance gets a police team in the money (8)
- Held high points, then fell heavily (8)
- The pattern of ancient law? (6)

DOWN

- Slow mover quietly setting in the country (8)
- Employment in quiet antique store? (6)
- Clowning with 500 in pool (4)
- Rise in a lift, repaired and working! (4)
- One exercising a lot of pull? (5,5)
- Players I keep in, to dress down (9)
- Miss Northern river rising (4)
- Trendy pose, for example (8)
- Waterway vessel on a lake (5)
- Name I note for an insect (7)

- Importune a toff – one free with hand-outs? (5,5)
- Twist with river in part of Europe (6)
- Reserve body of troops (10)
- Give immunity to alien, maybe, probed by copper (9)
- Wicked meal's foul inside (8)
- Finished article, almost – unpulsified (7)
- Acid gives one a twitch (6)
- Comparatively bare, lopped tree (5)
- A service hit up some distance (4)